



# THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

## Doing the Rite Thing: Rite Aid Drugstore Agrees to Shrink Sign on 24th Street

By Mark Robinson

The new Rite Aid sign on 24th Street was big, red, and "garish"—and Noe Valley's leading neighborhood group didn't like it.

But here's where the story takes a surprising twist: Instead of the usual clash between feisty neighborhood activists and steely chain-store executives, the two sides proceeded to work out their differences peacefully—with a little help from the political pros.

A new, smaller, more subdued sign is slated to go up sometime this month.

The problem began last spring, when Rite Aid started remodeling its store at 4045 24th St., previously a Thrifty Jr. drugstore outlet. Rite Aid, which is based in Vallejo, acquired the Thrifty chain in 1996 and has been revamping the chain's hundreds of stores ever since.

When the new sign went up, the Friends of Noe Valley lost no time in protesting. Friends board member Claire Pilcher wrote a letter complaining about the red plastic sign, describing it as "garish and oversized." Just in case the company didn't get it, she helpfully included a dictionary definition of the word *garish*. Pilcher pointed out that the Friends had worked out an agreement on signage with Thrifty when the store opened in 1987.

"It's ridiculous to have a sign that big

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## Tales from the Noe Crypt

## The Legend of Hendersons' Hollow

By Kathryn Guta

We all know that the biggest holiday in San Francisco is not Thanksgiving, New Year's, Christmas, or Rosh Hashanah. Our biggest holiday is Halloween, the night when the city turns campy, frilly, and scary. We enjoy nothing better than to drop our everyday identities and dress up like monsters—Dracula, the Bride of Frankenstein, Jesse Helms, Linda Tripp.

But there's one family in Noe Valley that's turned Halloween into a fine art. Some might even say they're possessed. This family has held a haunted house in their cellar for so many years they can't remember when it started.

Who are these Werewolves of Noe Valley? The Hendersons of 30th Street—and 14-year-old Brad Henderson is the leader of the pack.

Over the next few weeks, Brad will be



When Rite Aid completes its remodeling, the store will have a more tasteful facade and a new smaller sign, thanks to pressure from neighborhood residents. Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

busy transforming his basement into a fiendish nightmare guaranteed to scare even the most jaded of guests. "We get creative. Each year we add a little bit more," Brad says, his eyes glowing. "It's a community project."

Before the big night, the neighbors help move the regular basement stuff out into the back yard—the golf clubs, camping gear, and bikes. But some of the junk stays behind because it might be useful. "That duffel bag might get a bloody arm tossed into it. Or you could use that toolbox as a casket," says practical Brad.

When designing a haunted house, "always look for holes in the walls or little openings," Brad counsels. "They are the perfect places for ghosts or scary things to pop out of."

To illustrate, he points to a three-foot door in his basement that holds a kite bearing his sister Sadie's name. Brad opens the door, leading to a little crawl space between the buildings. This is the site for this year's spooky installation at the Henderson house. Perhaps it will feature a tortured hanged man or a bogeyman reaching out for a victim's doomed leg, he says comfortingly.

Brad's brother and sisters—Sadie, 12, Devin, 8, and Marta, 6—all join in the fun of making the scare house. Like Brad,



A month before Halloween, tongues and ears were already flapping along 30th Street: What kind of monster would 14-year-old Brad Henderson be this year? Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

they've had a lifetime of experience in conjuring up thrills and chills.

But Brad claims that most of the inspiration for this madness comes from his mom, Teri Cahill, a registered nurse at San Francisco General Hospital. "Every

## The Condos Are Coming

By Karen Topakian

By early spring 1999, Noe Valley will see 43 new condominiums where St. Paul's Primary School, High School, and Sisters of Charity Convent once were.

(That's in addition to construction of a new elementary school at Church and 29th streets. See "St. Paul's Starts Building New School," December 1997 *Voice*.)

Occupancy of the condos will mean a wave of new residents, as well as a rise in parking and traffic congestion in the area.

But the good news is, the imposing granite structures that are the signature of St. Paul's Parish will look pretty much the same after the condo conversion.

The former St. Paul's Primary School, located at 300 Valley St. near Sanchez, dates back to 1920. It was among three properties sold by St. Paul's Church over the past four years to pay for retrofitting its most important landmark, the twin-spired gothic church on Church Street.

The primary school was sold to Lansing Development Co. for \$925,000 in January of this year. The sale was handled by B.J. Droubi Real Estate on 24th Street.

In its condo incarnation, the primary school will have 7 two-bedroom, two-bath townhouses.

"We will be gutting the inside, but we are maintaining the integrity of the exterior of the building," said Adam Gavzer, of Lansing Development. "It will keep its historic feel."

The renovated building will also feature a landscaped garden in the back with a fountain.

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year we say, 'It's so much work, maybe we won't do it.' But Mom starts up and then we all pitch in," Brad says.

Teri admits she loves Halloween. "It's

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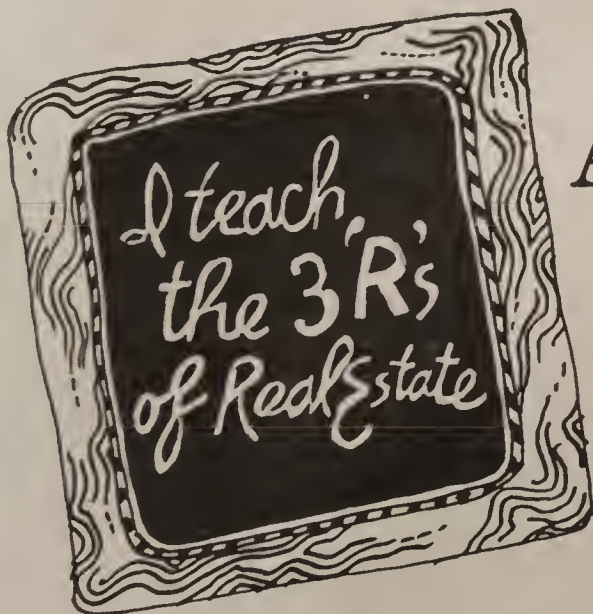




Where good ghouls gladly go. Once the sun starts to fade on Saturday, Oct. 31, Noe Valley will be taken over by the wraiths, fairies, knights, and witches who claim this night as their own. Young Sam Fields found the foraging was good on 24th Street last year, and posed with a friendly sun goddess in front of the Ark toy store.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

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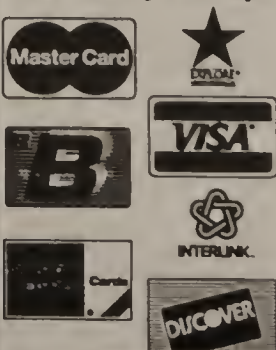
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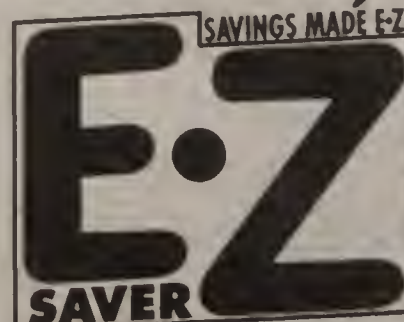
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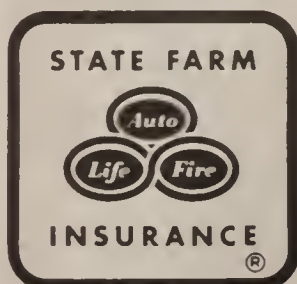
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## LETTERS 32¢

### Noe's is More Than a Bar

Editor:

I'm writing in response to Ray Stanten's slam against Noe's Bar in the letters section of the September 1998 *Voice*. Yes, Noe Valley and 24th Street in particular are evolving. But I would contend that Noe's Bar has evolved, too.

I invite Mr. Stanten and anyone else unfamiliar with Noe's to come in and check out our clean, bright, and sometimes noisy atmosphere. You'll find a mix of new faces and regular neighborhood patrons who are fun and cordial. We serve a delicious house coffee, soft drinks, and mineral water in addition to alcohol. And sporting seven TVs allows our 49er fans a clear view from any seat in the house.

Mr. Stanten's statement that patrons from Noe's Bar "leave the sidewalks covered with trash" is not true. Mr. Stanten's characterization of Noe's as having a negative impact on the neighborhood is distressing to those of us who work to make it more than a bar. It's a comfortable, clean, and safe place for people to get together.

Nancy Emery, Bar Manager  
Noe's Bar, 1199 Church St.

### Have You Lost a Neighbor Due to an Unfair Eviction?

Editor:

Star Magic, the Acme Cafe, and Glen 5 and 10 are gone from 24th Street's changing face. Real estate speculators are building rental property with rents so high that the existing Noe Valley residents cannot afford to rent them.

I despair as the character of our neighborhood changes rapidly, and so many of my friends and neighbors are forced to leave the area. I rarely see or hear from my closest friends, Martha and Terry, who lived on 23rd Street for years, until their building was sold and the new owner evicted them. We shared friendship, holidays, birthdays, and wedding festivities. Now that they've relocated to 23rd Avenue, the couple pays an additional \$300 in rent. The new owner reportedly lived in their unit for just a year, and now plans to sell the apartment as a condo.

As good long-term tenants leave their apartments to make room for the new owners who displace them, the records show that the typical speculator occupies the apartment for one year. The new owner can make an enormous profit by selling percentages of the ownership and skirting

the condo conversion law, instead of settling down to live in the apartment.

Do these speculators honestly expect the tenants they displace to find affordable apartments, when they've inflated the prices for rent? It's like offering pie in the sky.

Working-class people need homes. The neighborhood's stock of affordable rental units is dwindling. The lives of evicted seniors, low-income and working-class people are devastated with the loss of affordable housing in Noe Valley.

I am grateful that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a resolution to curb the unscrupulous practices of those wealthy speculators who systematically evict longtime Noe Valley residents from their rental units for profit, and that Mayor Willie Brown is signing it.

Proposition G, placed on the Nov. 3 ballot by the San Francisco Tenants' Union, goes further to preserve the existing stock of affordable housing in Noe Valley for its residents. It will restrict those owners who evict for profit. It will protect the most vulnerable residents of our community, low-income persons and seniors, from being uprooted from their homes.

Get out and vote "Yes" on Prop. G to preserve the existing stock of affordable housing in Noe Valley, and the character of the neighborhood for its residents.

Anastasia Yovanopoulos  
Noe Tenants' Association

### Enforce the No-Smoking Law

Editor:

The city's anti-smoking ordinance needs to be enforced. Smoking is going on openly in neighborhood saloons, especially in the Mission District and Noe Valley.

This blatant disrespect for the law is partly the fault of Mayor Brown and his puppet Board of Supervisors—for their failure to give strong backing to the police. The police—now seen as spineless and weak—often just look the other way.

The city should realize that this open defiance and contempt by saloon owners and inconsiderate smokers can lead to further crime outside the bars and in the streets. Non-smokers have rights, too! Will somebody please do something?!

Noe Valley resident  
(name withheld by request)

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## Condos Crop Up Around St. Paul's

*Continued from Page 1*

Gavzer said prices for the condominiums, ranging in size from 1,600 to 2,300 square feet, had not been set, but that each unit would have one deeded parking space as required by city law. He expects the condos to come on the market as early as February 1999.

### 36 Units at St. Paul's Commons

Meanwhile, the former St. Paul's High School at 317 29th St., built in 1917 — and the 1926 convent nearby at 323 29th St. — will be transformed into a 36-unit condominium complex to be called St. Paul's Commons.

"This historic building will retain its original hardwood floors, but will be built to the structural codes of today," said Victor Gonzalez, director of development for Monahan Pacific Development Corp., which purchased the property for \$2.65 million.

Roughly half of the condos will be one-bedrooms, ranging in size from 850 to 900 square feet. The rest will be two-bedrooms with 1,100 to 1,200 square feet. (There will be 1 three-bedroom unit.)

Some of these converted classrooms will have their own roof decks and patios, he said. All residents in the Commons will share a landscaped back yard. As with the Valley Street complex, each unit will have one parking space.

According to Gonzalez, St. Paul's Commons is about six months away from completion, and the first open house will be held sometime in early spring. "We will probably set the rates the day before the open house," Gonzalez quipped.



A 1917 high school building formerly owned by St. Paul's Church will keep many of its gothic architectural features when it becomes St. Paul's Commons, a large condominium complex on 29th Street between Church and Sanchez. Graphic courtesy Monahan Pacific Development Corp.

Though the exact prices are still under wraps, four of the 36 condos will sell as "BMR" units — below market rate — as set by the Mayor's Office of Housing. (According to a 1992 city law, all housing projects that require a conditional use permit and which are larger than 10-unit developments must offer 10 percent of

their units at below-market prices.)

At St. Paul's Commons, 1 two-bedroom and 3 one-bedroom units will be sold as BMRs. This means they will go to moderate-income buyers at a 10 to 30 percent discount. To find out about this program, call the Mayor's Housing Office at 252-3177.

Neither developer has hired a firm to handle the sale of their units, but Gonzalez says he already has 50 names on a waiting list. To reach Monahan Pacific (located in Corte Madera) call 945-7777.

The number for Lansing Development is 896-5135. □

## Rite Aid Trims Sign on 24th St.

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on 24th Street," Pilcher said in an interview. "Where do they want it to be seen, Potrero Hill?"

The Friends of Noe Valley, founded in 1971 in Pilcher's living room, now has about 200 members. Over the years the group has taken a keen interest in the neighborhood's commercial district, pushing for a special zoning designation for 24th Street, lobbying for a moratorium on restaurants and coffee stores, and pushing for more parking.

This time around, the group called on San Francisco Supervisor Mark Leno for help with the Rite Aid sign. Besides owning a sign business himself, the supervisor lives in Noe Valley. Leno in turn got in touch with Rite Aid's San Francisco lobbyist and lawyer, Bob McCarthy.

After a few rounds of meetings, phone

calls, faxes, and redesigns, Rite Aid came up with a sign that wasn't perfect, but it was close, said Pilcher. It was smaller and more discreet, with blue lettering.

At press time, the two sides were still ironing out details of the new logo. "We may get a smaller one yet," Pilcher said.

Rite Aid's director of real estate, Jeff Halbert, said the company, which has fought a series of contentious battles with residents in other neighborhoods in San Francisco, was happy to make the changes for the Noe Valley branch.

"It's not like we have a corporate sign stamp that we put on every store," he said. "Our objective is to be a good neighbor."

Supervisor Leno said he also was pleased with the success of the negotiations. "This has been a good example of how interests can be communicated and how compromises can be reached," he said.

More of the same may be in order. The Friends of Noe Valley also has concerns about the new facade and interior planned for the store.

Said Pilcher: "Some of our people saw the [Rite Aid] store at West Portal. They say it looks like a prison." □



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with Bill Flanigan

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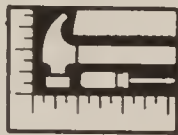
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## LETTERS

Continued from Page 4

### A Better Plan for Central Freeway Editor:

It's rare that we have a chance to right past mistakes, but in the case of Proposition E this November, we have that opportunity. Instead of retrofitting and widening the earthquake-damaged portion of the Central Freeway, the proposition would replace it with new ramps from Mission to Market and a new high-traffic-volume boulevard. A task force of architects, planners, traffic engineers, and representatives of neighborhoods throughout San Francisco developed this "Boulevard Plan" and concluded unanimously, after studying numerous options, that it best served the city.

When compared with the retrofit plan, which narrowly passed last November, the Proposition E plan is clearly much better for several reasons. According to Caltrans estimates, it would be at least \$20 million cheaper and 12 to 16 months faster to build. An analysis by structural engineers concludes that new construction would be safer than retrofitting the existing 40-year-old overhead freeway.

In addition, studies by Caltrans and the City of San Francisco indicate that the boulevard would move traffic to and from the west side in the same amount of time as the elevated roadway, but the boulevard has the advantage of providing better access for north side neighborhoods.

Proposition E would also have positive environmental and economic impacts that would benefit all San Franciscans. It would eliminate the terrible blight that now exists beneath the freeway overpass

on Market Street, contribute to the revitalization of the mid-Market area, and restore the vista from the Ferry Building to Twin Peaks. To get some idea of the potential benefits, we need only look to the emergence of our waterfront following the demolition of the Embarcadero Freeway. Or consider the revitalization of the Hayes Street commercial district after the demise of the freeway ramp there.

Finally and perhaps most importantly, Prop. E would free up 14 acres of Caltrans land for the construction of 700 to 900 units of affordable housing adjacent to the Civic Center and in Hayes Valley.

This is an opportunity we can't afford to pass up. Proposition E would provide comparable or better service for less money in less time with a higher level of earthquake safety while improving neighborhood livability, providing much needed housing, and creating overall enhancement of our beautiful city.

That's why we support Proposition E and urge other Noe Valley Voice readers to do so as well.

Harry Stern, 25th Street resident  
Janet Jacobs, Jersey Street resident

### Voice Mail

THE VOICE welcomes letters to the editor. Write the Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Or send e-mail to [jaxvoice@aol.com](mailto:jaxvoice@aol.com). Please include your name, address, and phone number, so we can contact you if we have questions. Another way to reach us is via our web site: [www.noevalleyvoice.com](http://www.noevalleyvoice.com). There you'll find a history of the paper, the Class Ads listings, and stories from current and past issues. Hope to hear from you soon.

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CO-PUBLISHERS/EDITORS

Sally Smith, Jack Tipple

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS AND EDITORS

Jane Underwood, Features Editor

Erin O'Brian, Assistant News Editor

Jim Christie, Last Page Editor

Karol Barske, Kathy Dalle-Molle, Richard Dodds, Maire Farrington, Anita Newman Fate, Anne Gates, Roberta Greifer, Kathryn Guta, Dodie Hamblen, Florence Holub, Tim Kelley, Douglas A. Konecky, Paul Linde, Denise Minor, Hugh Palmerston, Alison Pence, Lois Perillo, Elliot Poger, Mark Robinson, Pat Rose, Roger Rubin, Anne Sengès, Carol Small, Steve Steinberg, Karen Topakian, Rayne Wolfe

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Charles Kennard, Photo Editor

Ed Buryn, Pamela Gerard, Najib Joe Hakim,

Leo Holub, Beverly Tharp

CONTRIBUTING DESIGNERS

Karol Barske, Neal Elkin,

Scott Paterson, Suzanne Scott

ILLUSTRATIONS

Karol Barske

WEB DESIGN

Elliot Poger

ADVERTISING SALES

Steve Steinberg, Advertising Manager

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# The Hendersons Get Ready for a Howling Good Halloween

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a time to be anybody you want, a time to laugh and be silly and scary," she says. Halloween has been such a big part of her family, she says, that they'll probably keep doing the haunted house until they're forced to give up the ghost.

Brad's dad is Gerry Henderson, a San Francisco firefighter. Gerry really gets into the spirit of Halloween, too. And he can attest to the macabre realism of some of the city's Halloween antics. "One year we got two 911 calls about a man who had 'hung himself' on a scaffold in the Excelsior District. We had to ask the owner to take the installment down. People forgot it was Halloween."

Still, he and Teri and the kids enjoy pulling out all the stops. The doors of their haunted house usually creak open in the afternoon. Their coffins close about... well, let's just say you should leave long before midnight.

The scene that greeted visitors last year was spine-tingling: Cobwebs dripped from the ceiling. Candles sent flickering lights into the spooky darkness. Three skeleton pirates played a leisurely game of cards in the corner. A bloody baby sat under the front wheel of a slug bug. (The poor thing had been run over by a pair of careless gremlins.) Ghoulish laughter howled into the night.

Brad says 40 or so friends and neighbors crowd into the basement, all wearing elaborate disguises. Although they see each other all the time, it's hard to tell who's who when they're in costume. Says Brad, "The scariest monsters are those with arms and legs completely covered and wearing masks or face paint—especially if they don't say anything."

A few years ago, Brad came as a three-legged man, and he thought he'd topped everyone. But next-door neighbor Daniel Amend came with an ax through his head. (It's enough to give you a nervous twitch.)

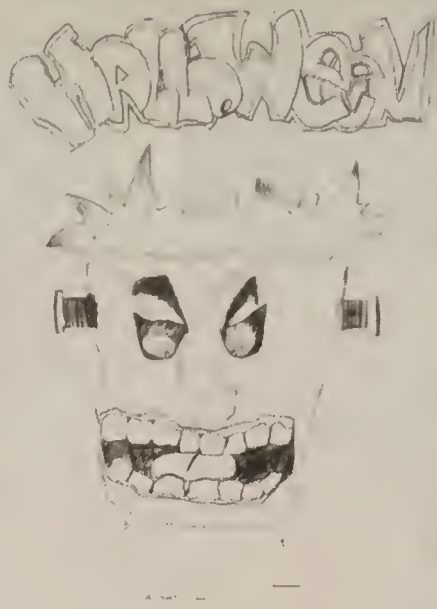
Monsters and witches often arrive with plates of creepy cuisine in their warty hands. Brad says the kids love scary red jello with eyeballs floating in it made of olives and cream cheese. Gummy worms squirting out of a cauldron of chocolate pudding are another favorite. Plain noodles on a bed of potatoes become "brains on the half-skull." Tater tots dipped in cat-soup look like missing fingers.

When it's time to trick or treat, the Henderson Haunted House shuts down and the entire gang moves into the street looking for "good" houses for candy or horror. "We take the same route up to Sanchez Street every year. We all know the way, so the big kids and little kids can all go at their own pace," Brad says.

One of the highlights in past years was a house on Harper Street. It featured a head in a toilet bowl and a dentist dressed up like a skeleton using a hand drill to work on a patient in a chair. Brad says a nurse slammed a real hatchet next to any little hand reaching into the candy bowl. Now that's scary!

The teens usually finish their route before the little kids and eat their treats at the end of 30th Street on Billy Goat Hill. Favorite treats are Snickers, Star Burst packets, and suckers. Brad says they always bring toilet paper to play tricks but have yet to unfurl their white flags through their neighbors' trees. He says the kids have been too well treated by the dozens of haunted homes they've visited over the years to do any real mischief.

As the *Noe Valley Vampire* went to



Brad Henderson says Frankenstein is a classic costume that's hard to beat. But be sure you have a couple of loose screws.

Sketch by Brad Henderson

press, Brad was still debating what to wear this Halloween. "My favorite costume of all time was the Werewolf—I liked having hairy hands and feet!"

But he might go as Mr. Sandman. "I'd wear a body suit with sand and glitter glued on over it. I'd also have a gold wristband that would make people fall asleep as they touched it."

So if you see a silent Sandman wandering around 30th and Dolores this Halloween, keep your hands in your pockets and your eyes wide open. You sure don't want to get lost at Hendersons' Hollow. □

## How to Have a Hair-Raising Haunted House

Here are some tips on how to celebrate Halloween, dug up by Brad "The Werewolf" Henderson:

- Get in the mood by going to see a scary movie. (Brad recommends *H<sub>2</sub>O*.)
- Carve up a pumpkin, put a candle inside, and put it at your door.
- Remember, masks look great but they are often uncomfortable. The eye holes are cut too small, and the whole thing can be hot and sweaty. Good alternatives are funky hair and face paint.
- To make your house haunted, it needs to be really dark. To create an eerie effect, cover your light fixtures with colored plastic. Place spotlights on scary scenes for added emphasis.
- Buy a tape of monster music and ghoulish sounds.
- Use newspapers to stuff clothing, or make a torso out of a rolled poster board. A blown-up balloon fitted with a mask is a good head. Stuffed rubber gloves become a pair of hands. Voila! a dead body.
- Use your own imagination. It's better than store-bought items, which can be hokey. Ask yourself: What would scare me the most? Then do it! □



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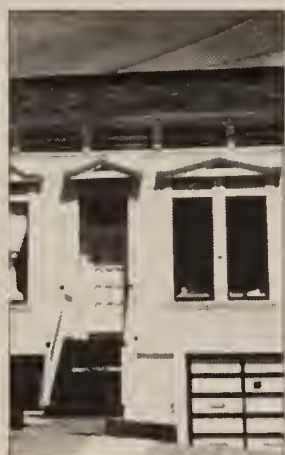


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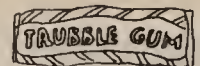
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# No More Free Food at Holiness Temple

By Tim Kelley

Free food distribution has ended at the former Holiness Temple in Christ—now renamed The Church at San Francisco—the royal-blue Pentecostal church at Church and 28th streets.

Pastor Joesiah Bell said his agreement with the San Francisco Food Bank, the organization from which the church had been purchasing groceries for distribution, was terminated this summer.

Bell said the split stemmed from a disagreement over "intrusive" site inspections by the Food Bank. He claimed that inspections of the church dramatically increased after he complained about racial discrimination by grocery distributors at the organization's Potrero Hill warehouse.

Gretta Wark, director of development for the Food Bank, confirmed that her organization had severed its relationship with the church in July. Wark said the Food Bank's inspections had revealed that people lining up for groceries at the Wednesday and Saturday distributions had been effectively required to hear a religious message prior to receiving food. She also said her records showed there were discrepancies between the amount of food purchased by the church and the amount distributed at regular posted hours.

As for Bell's discrimination claims, Wark said, "Hunger doesn't discriminate, and we don't discriminate either."

Bell admitted that his church usually scheduled prayer sessions right before food distribution times, but he insisted that participation was voluntary.

As for the accounting discrepancies, the pastor said his church had been handing out groceries to other religious and social organizations around the city, as well as to the needy at the church.

Although they may have been in violation of their agreement with the Food Bank, he said, "As a church, we have an obligation to serve the entire community."



## Writers, Poets, and Ex-Presidents

The *Noe Valley Voice* invites you to submit your essays, stories, and poems. We have two spots for creative writing. **The Last Page** is reserved for short fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry. **Bylines** is our place for first-person pieces on topics of community interest.

Manuscripts should be typed, double-spaced, and no more than 1,500 words for The Last Page, 800 for Bylines. Send a copy (not your original manuscript) to the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Please include an SASE and phone number. Thank you.

He also declined to document every transaction, saying, "They're not going to tell me who to give food to. We serve illegal immigrants and other people who don't want to give their names."

But Wark said the Food Bank must ensure that the groceries—which are donated by major food manufacturers, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and other sources—are actually reaching people in need. Each client organization, she explained, must account for how, when, and to whom they give their food.

"We don't terminate an agency lightly," Wark said. "We've only done it about three times in the last four or five years." □

## Last Chance for Coffee Talk

By Pat Rose

The latest draft of a resolution to permanently ban new specialty grocery and coffee stores on 24th Street will be discussed at the Oct. 15 meeting of the Board of Supervisors' Housing and Neighborhood Services Committee.

"We now have an amended resolution," said June Gutfleisch, spokesperson for Supervisor Sue Bierman, who is sponsoring the measure. "There will be one more meeting to be sure there is neighborhood consensus before the resolution comes before the committee."

Two of the changes to the original measure include allowing small grocery stores to have deli takeout, and confining the ban to the 24th Street corridor.

The Oct. 15 meeting will be held at 10 a.m. in the Board Committee Room at 401 Van Ness Ave. For more information, contact Sue Bierman's office at 554-6661. □

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# POLICE BEAT

## B of A Robbed

By Officer Lois Perillo

I haven't collected all the stats on September, but I noticed one notable incident: A man 30 to 40 years old robbed the Bank of America at 24th and Castro on Sept. 15 at 5:10 p.m.

The suspect showed the teller a note in which he demanded money. The teller complied, then hit the alarm as the suspect exited. Police Officers Susan Nangle and Ray Salvador searched the area but did not locate the robber. Crime lab technicians also responded to collect physical evidence. Then FBI agents arrived on the scene, took charge of the investigation, and seized the bank's videotape.

The suspect was described as a white male with brown hair, standing 5'10", weighing 150 to 160 pounds, and wearing sunglasses and a hooded sweatshirt.

### Middle of the Night Mugging

During August, there were only two reported robberies within my beat.

In the first incident, which happened on Aug. 7 at about 2 a.m., a 46-year-old man was carrying a bag of groceries as he walked north on Dolores from 24th Street, when a stranger approached and asked him for "a light." A second man then came up behind him, pulled out a gun, and said, "Where's the money?" The first man then took the targeted man's waistpack, while the second grabbed the groceries. Both thieves fled south on Dolores Street. No arrest has been made so far.

The second August robbery involved teenage girls and occurred at 24th and Guerrero on Aug. 31 at 4 p.m. Details of this incident were unavailable as of this writing.

### Termite Nabbed Again

Commercial burglaries on 24th Street peaked this summer with a record 11 incidents occurring in August. The September count had already reached four by the end of the first week. A few days later, 39-year-old convicted burglar and parolee Larry Kraft was taken into custody by Sergeant Lou Espinda.

Kraft, known as "The Termite" for a series of crafty ceiling break-ins in Noe Valley shops, was considered to be the prime suspect in the rash of store burglaries. Since he was subject to search as a condition of his parole, Sgt. Espinda—along with Kraft's parole officer, Leo Pierini, and Sergeant Steve Bossard—entered Kraft's South Van Ness residence on Sept. 9 and found him in possession of narcotics.

Kraft was arrested and delivered to state prison, where a hearing will be held to revoke his parole. Meanwhile, the last

reported commercial burglary in Noe Valley occurred Sunday, Sept. 9.

Unfortunately, neighboring Eureka Valley has been targeted in a string of door kick-in burglaries. The suspect in these incidents is described as a white male in his 30s, salt and pepper hair, carrying a dark-blue daypack.

### Auto Boosters Busted

There were 22 car break-ins during August on my turf. The police arrested five suspects involved in two of the incidents.

The first incident involved four teen boys, ranging in age from 11 to 17. They were caught on the 4200 block of 25th Street and charged with auto burglary. (The date and other details were unavailable at press time.)

On Aug. 30 at 3:10 p.m., a witness reported seeing a 21-year-old man break into her neighbor's car and then attempt to break into her own car, on the 3900 block of 25th Street. The suspect was arrested after the witness called police and gave a detailed description.

Sergeant Mike Stasko responded to the call and located the suspect at Clipper and Church streets. Once he'd been identified, the man was booked on two felonies of auto burglary and receiving stolen property. The district attorney rebooked him on the same charges, but reduced them to misdemeanors.

The suspect was released on his own recognizance on Sept. 1, and he has appeared at two additional court dates, entering a not-guilty plea on Sept. 17.

I credit his capture to the witness, who investigated the "loud noises" she heard at 3 in the morning, called police when she saw suspicious activity, and provided the description that aided Sgt. Stasko in his search and ultimate capture of the suspect. Many thanks to the witness.

### Mail Thieves Returned to Sender

A man and a woman who have been operating as a team over the past several months, stealing mail out of mailboxes in Noe Valley, were arrested by the SFPD's Special Investigations Division.

As they cased the neighborhood, the couple used a brown van with outdated disability license plates (which should have been turned into DMV years ago).

After receiving numerous reports from people whose mail had been stolen, Officers Nick Rubino and Sylvia Morrow staked out the area until they spotted the van on the first block of Fair Oaks Street on Sept. 17 at 2 p.m. They watched as the suspects pilfered mail from various mailboxes. Then they arrested the duo and charged them with nine felonies.

Since mail theft is a federal offense, U.S. postal inspectors took charge of the case, and the suspects—30-year-old Jennifer Pember and 40-year-old Paul John Brown—were remanded to the feds. The U.S. inspectors will need to do a great deal of follow-up work to make the case—the police report listed 115 victims.

Continued on Page 14

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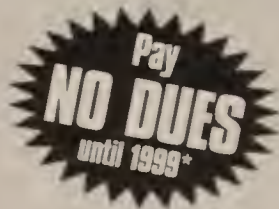
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## POLICE BEAT

Continued from Page 13

### An Old Con Game with a New Twist

As is always the case, confidence artists change their sales pitch to suit the targeted person and the neighborhood. Sadly, an elderly woman living on the 100 block of Clipper was targeted in a scam when a 40-year-old man identifying himself as "Jim Thom" struck up a conversation about neighborhood watch programs. Soon the man found out that the woman's roof was in need of repair and told her that he and his brother-in-law happened to be doing roofing jobs. He took a monetary deposit from the woman and promised to return. The woman is out the money and still in need of the repair.

To those of you with elder relatives and neighbors, please talk to them about the possibility that they might be approached by a con artist. Discuss a variety of scenarios and perhaps encourage them to contact you or another trusted person before making a deal with any unsolicited

contractor. Remind them to seek second bids and check references. SAFE (Safety Awareness for Everyone) at 553-1984 offers free information and will send someone to your home to make a presentation on personal safety and scam avoidance.

### My Story

As many of you know, I was assaulted June 10 in Oakland, and I continue to heal from wounds by exercising. Movement is definitely a friend!

Meanwhile, on the same day that I received a certified letter from the San Francisco Workers' Compensation Division denying my claim for medical expenses and sick time, I also received a subpoena to appear at the preliminary hearing for the woman who attacked me. By the time you read this, I will have gone to court and the Alameda County Judge will have either dismissed the case or sent it to trial.

Be safe and continue to watch out for one another. See you on 24th Street. □

San Francisco Police Officer Lois Perillo covers her beat by foot and by bicycle. Her turf extends from Valencia to Grand View and from 21st to Cesar Chavez Street. If you would like to discuss a neighborhood problem, call her at 558-5404, the community policing line at Mission Station. (For emergencies, dial 911.)

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# So the Stock Market Takes a Dive... No Problem

By Erin O'Briant

I'll admit it: When the stock market began zooming up and down this summer and the TV pundits started talking about bears on Wall Street, I got nervous. After all, I had \$140 invested!

More importantly, I was working as a freelancer. If the economy went into the tank, was I going to lose my job and end up in the poorhouse?

Well, in the opinion of two Noe Valley money experts, I probably have nothing to fear but fear itself.

"This is still a great time," says Fern Larocca, owner of a financial consulting firm called Advanced Financial Designs and an 18-year resident of Dolores Street. "The economy is very strong, we have low inflation, low interest rates, low unemployment. And the shops in Noe Valley seem to be thriving. I think they're even going to have a good Christmas shopping season."

"I have confidence in the American economy," agrees Jon Richards, a stock market expert who edits a financial newsletter, *NoteWorthy Investments*, from his home on Hoffman Avenue. "This isn't the time to panic, unless you think it's Armageddon — which I don't. This is the time to buy."

And though the average Noe Valley resident may not be gobbling up stocks right now, most folks don't seem overly concerned.

"I'm not in the stock market to make a

quick buck," says Amy Royer, a Fair Oaks Street resident and member of a Bay Area women's investment club. "Sure, the [August] crash has brought down the value of the club's stocks, but in the long term we'll still make good money."

So maybe I did get carried away with my visions of debtors' prison. Anyway, I'm glad to know that while things may be a little tighter over the short term, we're probably not headed for another Great Depression — whew!

## You Don't Have to Be Rich to Invest

I figure, if those "in the know" are this optimistic when the market is gyrating like a belly dancer, maybe I should add to my measly \$140 investment. But I'm certainly not wealthy. Where should I start?

How 'bout with whatever I can handle.

"Sometimes people think investment clubs are just for the rich," said Royer, "but that's not true."

The 10 to 12 members of her investment club each contribute \$40 a month. Then they use the group's funds to purchase stocks they pick together. "Some investment clubs want you to pay \$500 a month or more, but it doesn't have to be like that," Royer said.

Larocca recommends that non-investors start by looking at their employer's 401(k) plan, a tax-free retirement fund offered by many companies. "A lot of companies will match your 401(k) funds — so that's free money," Larocca said. "If you don't have a 401(k), you can put money in an IRA [individual retirement account] and get a tax break. Or you can put as little as \$100 a month into a no-load mutual fund."

"My advice is to buy good no-load mutual funds," echoes Richards. "No-load" means that you don't pay a fee to invest in the fund.

If you're feeling adventurous, you can research mutual funds on the Internet at

[morningstar.net](http://morningstar.net) or talk to a broker or financial planner who can recommend funds to you. They'll most likely suggest you diversify — spread your money among a number of investments — and keep your hands off the dough for as long as possible.

It might interest you to know that since 1948 the S&P 500, which measures the stock prices of 500 leading U.S. companies, has experienced 10 "bull" markets, periods of extended growth. The average length was 3 years and 4 months. During the same 50 years, the market went through 9 slowdowns or "bear" markets. The average bear market lasted only 1 year and 4 months. Until this summer, we'd been riding high for more than seven years. So we're way overdue for a bear market. But even if it's now upon us, it shouldn't be around forever.

Anyway, once you decide on your investment goals (and time horizon for achieving them), it's just a matter of scraping that \$50 off the top of your paycheck each month.

## Saving Is Your Top Priority

You know you should be saving — socking money away into a savings account, a bond fund, or maybe under your mattress. But many of us barely break even at the end of the month, leaving nothing to fall back on. Here are some saving tips from my panel of experts:

- **Don't let credit card debt keep you from saving.** Even if you owe money on a credit card, you still need to hold back something each month for yourself. Meanwhile, stop using your credit cards, and consolidate all your debt on one low-interest card. Then pay it off every month.

- **Get financial counseling.** A professional can help you make up a budget you can live with, assess your debts and income, and show you how to make better financial decisions. The National Center

for Financial Education at (619) 239-1401 or [www.ncfe.org](http://www.ncfe.org) and the Consumer Credit Counseling Service at (888) GO2-CCCS or [www.credit.org](http://www.credit.org) are good places to start. Both are nonprofit organizations.

- **Keep track of your spending** with a computer software program, which can help you budget everything from your grocery list to your retirement.

- **Start now and get into the habit of saving each month.** Even if it's 10 bucks.

- **Pay yourself first.** The first check you write each month should be to your savings account, mutual fund, or 401(k). Better yet, deposit the money through automatic bank drafts — that way you'll never miss it.

## 10 Percent Is a Good Rule of Thumb

One question on everybody's mind is, how much should I be saving? Larocca recommends that you skim off about 10 percent of your gross earnings each month.

Richards says there's no strict number. What you save depends on your resources, family responsibilities, and personal goals. But the amount should be a sum you're comfortable with.

Says Richards, "Do whatever you need to sleep at night." □



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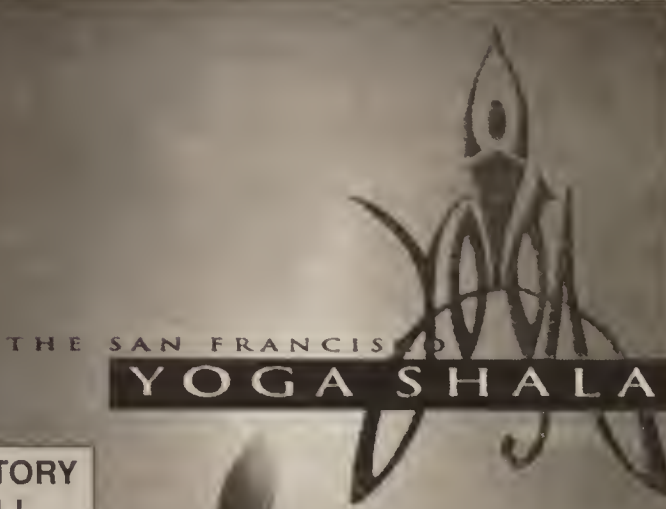
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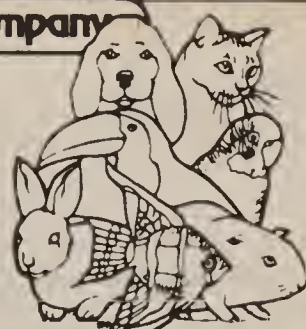
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## NOE VALLEY WEDDING

### Jessica Smith and Jerry Holdner Jr.

ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 1998, Jessica Anne Smith was married at the Elizabeth Street home of Jessica's parents, Barry and Jane Smith, to Jerry James Holdner Jr., the son of Jerry and Sharon Holdner of Anaheim Hills, Orange County.

The wedding was held in Barry and Jane's garden. Barry's legal colleague, Nordin F. Blacker, officiated at the ceremony.

The Smith home overflowed with family and friends who came from as far away as the Netherlands and as near as 24th Street to celebrate the happy occasion with Jerry and Jessica. The ceremony was followed by an English tea with scones, sausage rolls, sandwiches, and salads. The bride and groom were toasted by their best man, John Basse, and both fathers, Barry and Jerry Sr., before cutting their wedding cake.

For the ceremony Jessica wore a long ivory gown and baby's breath in her hair. She was attended by her three sisters, Julia Smith of West Hollywood, and Jocelyn and Phillipa Smith of San Francisco, in long, midnight-blue dresses. Jerry's attendants were longtime friends John Basse, John Schnell, Marc Woolsey, Jay Neel, and Gary Maxwell, all of Southern California.

Among the family members who were there for the ceremony were Jessica's grandparents, Ken and Clara Rutherford of Porterville, Calif., and Jerry's grandparents, James and Thelma Warwood of Sunnyvale.

Jessica's aunts—Patricia Webb and daughters of Edinburgh, Scotland, and Anne Johnson and sons of Porterville—were also on hand, as were her uncles—Andrew Smith and family of Surrey, England, Neil Smith and family of Rotterdam, Netherlands, and Alan Rutherford of San Francisco.

Also present were Jerry's uncles Ben and Glen Warwood of Texas, and Jay Warwood of San Jose.

Jessica was born and raised in Weston, Conn. After graduating from Weston High School in 1986, she came to California to attend Whittier College. She worked for the Casino Frozen Food division of Smart and Final and Tyr Sports, before joining Hidden Villa Ranch in Fullerton.

Jerry, a native of Orange County, graduated from Canyon High School in Anaheim Hills, and worked at Smart and Final while obtaining his degree from California State University, Fullerton. He received his M.B.A. degree this May from Chapman College. He is operations manager for First Image Technologies in Tustin, Calif.

Jerry and Jessica recently bought a home in Anaheim Hills, Orange County, and have just returned from a honeymoon trip to Italy and the Greek Isles.

THE WEDDING was a uniquely Noe Valley occasion. Jessica and Jerry's beautiful English tea was catered by Teri of Lovejoy's Tea Room on Church Street. When the couple were looking for a place for out-of-town guests to stay, they decided on Noe's Nest when they found out that the manager, Cindy, once worked with Jerry's father.

Rita of the Noe Valley Bakery on 24th Street baked and delivered a lovely



Jessica Smith and Jerry Holdner Jr. were married Aug. 8, in a garden ceremony at the Elizabeth Street home of Jessica's parents, Barry and Jane Smith. Family and friends came from Texas and up and down the California coast, as well as from England, Scotland, and the Netherlands.

Photo courtesy the Smith Family

four-tier, strawberry Bavarian wedding cake, decorated to Jessica's specifications with icing scrolls and fresh roses.

When the Smiths needed wine and champagne for the reception, Gary of Bell Market offered his expertise and assistance. And after Jessica and Jerry had gone, family and friends enjoyed

the evening together snacking on platters of spanakopita, Armenian sandwiches, and salads from the Noe Valley Deli.

Everyone who participated will treasure the memory of this occasion. ☐ Congratulations to the newlyweds and a special thank you to Jane Smith, for sending us this charming description of

her daughter's wedding. The Voice welcomes our readers' announcements of family celebrations. Please send correspondence to the Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Or e-mail [jaxvoice@aol.com](mailto:jaxvoice@aol.com). We'd also appreciate a phone number (and any snapshots you can part with).

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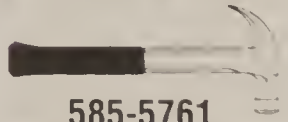
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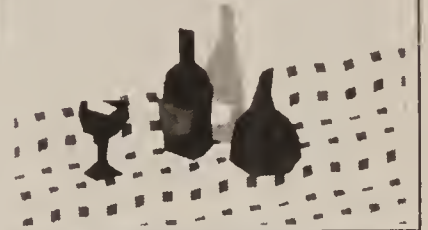
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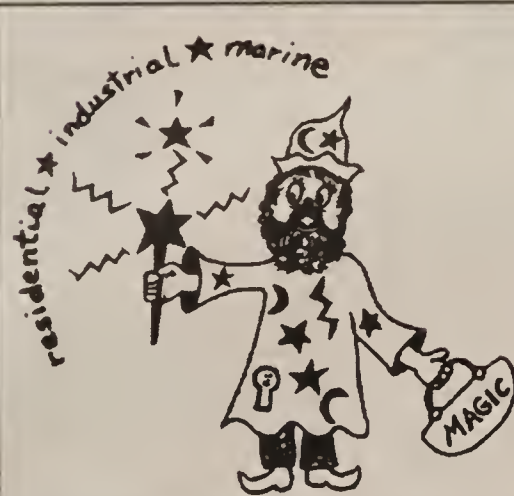
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## Let BYLINES Be BYLINES

### Your Neighborhood Public School: Ugly Duckling or Fledgling Swan?

By Addie Lanier

fall is here. The leaves are coming down, apples are in season, and in San Francisco, it's time for the parents of next year's kindergarten class to start agonizing about which school to send their children to. I have a perspective about schools I would like to share. My perspective is that of a Noe Valley parent and public school teacher.

When my children started school, I volunteered in the classroom. I liked working with the students so much, I decided to become a teacher. While studying for my credential, I was an assistant teacher in an affluent private school in San Francisco. Seeing students with significant behavioral problems and students who needed additional tutoring even in a smaller, exclusive setting was an eye opener for me. Naively, I had thought affluent private schools were immune to those kinds of problems.

Later, I worked in an Oakland public school where the poverty was so extreme it made me weep. I got my teaching credential, and soon afterward I started working as a kindergarten teacher at an inner-city school in San Francisco. Later still, I worked at an alternative public school in the city.

When most parents look at schools, they look at test scores first. But I think test scores tell very little about the quality of a school.

Children are individuals. In every school I worked in, public or private, rich or poor, I found academically gifted students. I found children who were struggling with family issues such as divorce, abandonment, and sibling rivalry. I found children who had to cope with learning disabilities. And I found children who believed they could conquer the world.

I worked with many students who proved the negative stereotypes wrong. Some of my brightest students were the children of teenage mothers, children with single parents, and children of immigrants who did not speak English.

From my experience as a teacher, I believe that the family is the most important educational environment for every child at every age. The home is

where children learn values such as kindness, respect, self-discipline, determination, and a willingness to try. A child who comes to school with these positive values will thrive in any school setting. A child who brings poor values to school has a much harder time, whether the school is private or public, whether the child's family is affluent, middle-class, or impoverished.

Because family life is so important to the education of children, parents need to consider the demands that the school makes on parents. The school and parents are partners. For the six to nine years that a child is in primary school, much of the family's time will be devoted to school activities, friendships made at school, sports teams—the list goes on and on.

Sending your child to a neighborhood public school can make a big difference. For one thing, you can't beat the public school tuition. Working extra hours to pay private school tuition puts a strain on working parents and takes time away from the family. After a long day at work, reading to children and helping with homework can be exhausting. It's hard to find the patience to teach children to be responsible and self-reliant when you're tired and overworked. Furthermore, most well-paying jobs also happen to be full-time jobs, which

means that parents have to pay for after-school care. Young children need the love and attention that parents provide best. There is no substitute for time with your parents.

The time in the morning sets the tone for the day. All parents know how hard getting kids fed, dressed, and out the door is. Neighborhood schools are close to home. A leisurely walk to a local school sets a good tone for the rest of the day, whereas a hurried drive across town in morning traffic is a drag. Commuting is not quality time and doesn't contribute to a young child's development. A 30-minute commute to and from school over the course of a year translates into 22 eight-hour days spent sitting in a car.

But that's only half of it. Children form friendships with their classmates. In a school that draws children from all parts of the city, parents have to drive hither and yon to drop off and pick up their children for play dates. Add music lessons, team practices, dentist and doctor appointments, and you might as well buy a mobile home.

A neighborhood school attended by neighborhood children, where neighborhood parents volunteer regularly, is more than a school—it is a living, breathing community. Children love it when parents come to their school. See-

ing parents at school tells children that they are important, learning is important, and that parents care. Of course, parents can volunteer in their children's classrooms no matter where the school is, but they don't volunteer as often when the school is far away.

Seven years ago, when I went looking for a school for my daughter, I didn't know what to look for. My only experience with schools was in nursery schools with children under the age of 5. I could not imagine how my precious 4-year-old daughter could attend a primary school without being knocked down, run over, lost in a hallway, or lost, period.

For this reason, my husband and I wound up sending her to a public alternative school outside Noe Valley.

Today, when I look at my 11-year-old daughter, after having worked with kindergarten kids, I know that my daughter would have been just fine here in the neighborhood.

A 4-year-old and an 8-year-old are worlds apart. When you're visiting a school, especially when you look at children playing in the yard, remember that your child will be 8 years old soon. What looks like rough-and-tumble play is normal, healthy play for an older child. You can't judge a primary school by the standards of a nursery school.

On our block, there are seven families with school-age children. The children attend seven different schools that follow seven different schedules. Not one family is attending Alvarado Elementary, our neighborhood public school, although it is a five-minute walk from our homes.

My children have had a great education. I have no complaints about their experience, but if I were looking for a school today, knowing what I know now as a teacher and parent, I would investigate my local public school more carefully.

Take the time to call and talk to the new principals at Fairmount and Alvarado. I happen to know they're great. Visit the schools more than once and at different times during the day.

Our neighborhood public schools might look like ugly ducklings. But I think they will turn out to be swans. □

### Checking Out the Local Schools

Noe Valley has four elementary schools within walking distance of the neighborhood. But enrolling your child isn't automatic. You have to register and fill out an optional enrollment request (OER) to get in the school of your choice.

Right now, the San Francisco Unified School District is gearing up to enroll students for the 1999–2000 school year. The application period is Nov. 2, 1998, to Jan. 8, 1999. Starting Nov. 2, forms will be available at all city schools or at the Educational Placement Center at 135 Van Ness Ave. If you have questions, call 241-6085 or visit the school district's web site at [www.sfusd.k12.ca.us](http://www.sfusd.k12.ca.us).

In the meantime, you are invited to attend a free kindergarten information night at the Jewish Community Center, 3200 California St., on Oct. 8, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. You also might want to watch the 11 a.m. "Sunday on Seven" show that airs Oct. 18 on Channel 7. The program will focus on how to select a school in San Francisco. But the best way to find out about your neighborhood schools is to take a tour. Here's the scoop on the four local elementary schools.

**Alvarado Elementary School, 625 Douglass St. (at Alvarado), 695-5695**  
Starting Oct. 20, tours will be given on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. Alvarado will also hold an open house on Nov. 7, 10:30 a.m. to noon.

**Edison Charter Academy, 3531 22nd St. (at Dolores), 695-5848**  
Edison, which recently became a charter school, will offer a 90-minute tour starting at 9 a.m. on three Thursdays: Oct. 15, Oct. 22, and Nov. 5.

**Fairmount Elementary School, 65 Chenery St. (at Randall), 695-5669**  
On Saturday, Oct. 17, 10 a.m. to noon, Fairmount will host a talk by Byrna Rifkind on "Selecting a School for Your Child—What You Need to Know About the Different Ways Children Learn." Tours are also held Wednesdays at 9 a.m.

**Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy, 4235 19th St. (at Collingwood), 241-6276**  
Harvey Milk will host school tours on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:15 a.m. (Call for exact dates.) The school is also planning an open house in November.

*Thanks to Castro Street resident Sandra Halladey for providing the above information. Noe Valley parents who'd like to learn more can e-mail her at [SHalladey@aol.com](mailto:SHalladey@aol.com).*

### Let Bylines Be Bylines

The Noe Valley Voice welcomes your essays, opinion pieces, and other reflections on neighborhood people, places, and things. Mail manuscripts, which should be typed, double-spaced, and no more than 1,000 words, to the Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Send an SASE and a phone number, too. Thanks.

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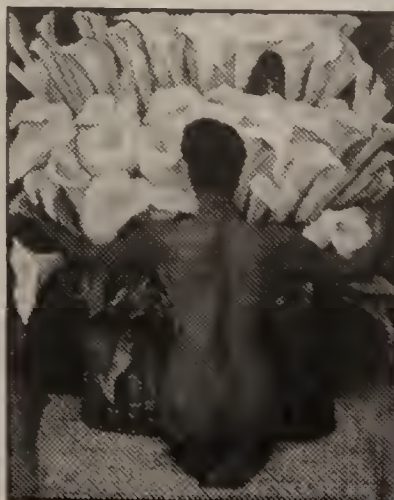
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\* Earned Income Credit available to single or married workers raising children in their homes and earning less than \$29,290, or earning less than \$9,770 in households with no children. Call for further details. This ad sponsored by the Mayor's Office of Economic Development

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The Rev. Jan Cazden, Deacon

### Sunday Services

9:00 AM FAMILY EUCHARIST

A shorter, less formal service with hymns; Sunday School follows this service.

11:00 AM CHORAL EUCHARIST

A formal, sung service; Fellowship follows this service.

### Wednesday Service

6:00 PM HOLY EUCHARIST

An informal celebration followed by a potluck supper and Bible study.

455 Fair Oaks Street, San Francisco, CA 94110 • 415 824-5142  
(Between 25th and 26th – Dolores and Guerrero Streets)



# SHORT TAKES

## Tall Tales at Cover to Cover

Cover to Cover Booksellers on 24th Street is making big plans for October. First, children's author David Shannon will be in the store on Friday, Oct. 16, to read from and sign copies of his new book, *No, David!* The event starts at 10:30 a.m. — and a few kindergartners from Alvarado Elementary may be stopping by to enjoy the storytelling.

Then on Sunday, Oct. 18, at 6:30 p.m., teachers can come by the store to find out about the hottest new kids' books. There is a cover charge of \$8, but that can be credited to the purchase of a book that night. Teachers get a 15 percent discount that evening, too. To attend, preregister by calling the store at 282-8080.

Finally, everyone can get geared up for Halloween with readings from *Harvest Tales and Midnight Revels*, edited by Michael Mayhew. "Every year this group of friends gets together and reads Halloween stories that they've written," says Susan Talbott, who's organizing the event for Cover to Cover. "This book is the best of those stories."

Several of the book's contributors will be on hand to read their stories, which Talbott thinks will appeal to kids and grownups alike. Come by on Saturday, Oct. 24, at 2 p.m. to hear harrowing tales of ghosts and goblins.

## City Says Design a Dream Park

If you're like most Noe Valleons, you probably have a long wish list for your neighborhood park. Well, you can get it

off your chest at a workshop on "Creating Your Dream Park," sponsored by the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department's "Great Parks for a Great City" Assessment Project.

By getting input from the folks who use the facilities, Rec and Park hopes to create a blueprint for makeovers to all the city's parks, playgrounds, and recreation areas. A total of 10 workshops will be held throughout San Francisco during October and November.

Each meeting will offer hands-on activities where people grapple with things like landscaping, play equipment safety, bathroom maintenance, and other park improvements. Then, in April of 1999, the department will develop a plan to put the most needed improvements in place.

The Mission District workshop will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 14, at Mission Recreation Center, 745 Treat St. The Noe Valley and Castro District meeting will take place on Thursday, Oct. 22, at Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood St. Workshops run from 6 to 8 p.m.

If you have questions for Rec and Park, give the department a call at 831-2090 or visit the web site [www.ci.sf.ca.us/recpark](http://www.ci.sf.ca.us/recpark).

## Wind in the Willows Turns 25

Did you or your little ones attend preschool at Wind in the Willows? After two and a half decades in the neighborhood, the school has plenty of "alums" and invites the whole gang to drop by for a 25th anniversary party on Oct. 18 from 1 to 4 p.m. Wind in the Willows is located at 1444 Church St. near Cesar Chavez.

"This is a time when people can come by and see their old preschool," says Wind in the Willows director Pat O'Connor. "Being around this long is a big accomplishment for a little organization like us." Of course, current students and their families are also invited.

O'Connor plans to have a birthday cake, other food and refreshments, and a memory book in which past and present preschoolers can write or draw their favorite recollections of Wind in the Willows. The group will also be selling special 25th anniversary tee shirts.

For more information, stop by the school or call 285-5510.

## Art Studios Open Their Doors

If you've been wanting to get a peek at some of the art studios in Noe Valley, the 23rd annual San Francisco Open Studios weekend is a great opportunity. On Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 10 and 11, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., 17 local artists will open their work spaces to the public.

If you're interested in painting, you can visit Jenny Badger Sultan at 1696 Sanchez between Day and 30th streets; Lita Blanc at 4089 25th near Sanchez and Noe; Robert Dunahay at 3825 21st between Castro and Noe; Margaret Jo Feldman at 1286 Guerrero, No. 6, between 24th and 25th streets; Melanie Sanchez at 1336 Guerrero near 25th; Charles Trapolin at 288 30th between Church and Chenery; Kenneth Treacy at 101 27th between Guerrero and Dolores; and Melissa Yarbrough at 1330B Guerrero between 25th and 26th streets.

Sculpture buffs will want to visit the studios of James Edmiston at 369 Duncan between Church and Sanchez, and Paul A. Moshammer at 1483 Dolores near Duncan. Photographers Rob Kaaz and Ron Van Dongen at 469 27th between Noe and Sanchez will also open their space to the public, as will the glass artists at Mazzella/Peterson Designs at 1055 Sanchez near Elizabeth.

Michael Markowitz of 3747 23rd near Dolores, and Eric Scheib of 391 27th near Sanchez will both put their drawings on display; Rene Griffith at 1290 Sanchez

between 26th and Clipper will showcase her mixed-media work; and Gisela Hirschberger of 4051 26th near Noe and Sanchez will welcome all to her print-making studio.

San Francisco Open Studios will also exhibit one piece of artwork by each participating artist from Oct. 2 to 25 at the SomARTS Gallery at 934 Brannan St. A kickoff reception for the exhibit will take place at the gallery on Oct. 2 from 5 to 8 p.m. For more information, call 646-0660 or visit the Open Studios web site at [www.citysearch.com/sfoopenstudios](http://www.citysearch.com/sfoopenstudios).

## Opera Premieres in Noe Valley

Opera, poetry, and theater lovers alike are looking forward to the premiere of *Gaia Sophia*, on Oct. 9, 8 p.m., at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.

Composer William Ludtke describes *Gaia Sophia* as a "musical drama" featuring an opera singer, a dancer, and two actor/mimes. It is based on a series of poems called *To Light Return* by Rebecca Robison, which chronicles humankind's faltering journey toward enlightenment over many centuries. The piece was commissioned under a grant from the San Francisco Arts Commission.

"It is staged, costumed, and lit like an opera," said Ludtke of the two-act piece, "but it also has some elements of a church pageant. There are lots of historical vignettes, including a scene from the Pharaohs, and a Mayan blood sacrifice."

The cast includes Bay Area soprano Nanette McGuinness and choreographer and dancer Kinji Hayashi. The SONOS Handbell Ensemble will also perform. According to Ludtke, this is the first time

*Continued on Next Page*

*This month's Short Takes were written by Erin O'Briant.*

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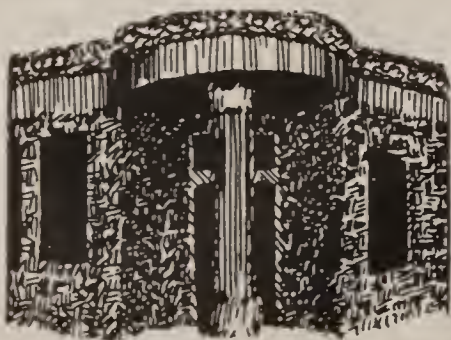
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## SHORT TAKES

Continued from Previous Page

handbells have appeared in an opera score.

Tickets are \$20 each, or \$18 for groups of 10 or more, but Ludtke warned that they are going fast.

To reserve your seat, call 586-3534.

## Could You Be Depressed?

"Depression can show itself in anger, listlessness, and irritability," says local psychotherapist Christopher Westergaard. "It can hamper a person's relationships, work, and health. But more people are coming out of the closet about it because they know it's treatable."

If you think you may be depressed, you are invited to participate in free depression screenings being held in San Francisco on Oct. 8, National Depression Screening Day.

The screenings are part of a program coordinated in the Bay Area by the Psychiatric Foundation of Northern California. Though as many as 17 million Americans suffer from depression, figures from the National Institute of Mental Health show that fewer than half seek help for the problem. The good news is that treatment can help the vast majority—about 80 percent—of people with depression.

Participants in the depression screening are asked to complete an anonymous written test. Afterward, they can speak with a trained mental health professional about the results. The site nearest Noe Valley is Westergaard's office on 20th Street near Douglass. To schedule an appointment, call him at 864-1754.

Other local sites include the San Francisco Main Library at 882-6230 and St. Mary's Medical Center at 750-5967. For information on sites throughout Northern California, call 1-800-573-4433.

## A Cultural Food Fest Oct. 3

It's a lot of trouble to go all the way downtown for an elegant night out—so check out the third annual Carnival of Cultures at 30th Street Senior Services, located at 225 30th St. between Dolores and Church.

The evening begins at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 3, with a wine and cheese reception in the center's garden. Then you can listen to live entertainment by Mariana (an eight-piece band), take part in a piñata contest, and eat a scrumptious buffet dinner prepared by Savor Restaurant, Valentine's, Royal Kitchen, Casa Sanchez, What's for Dessert, the Cheesecake Lady, Ben & Jerry's, and Mikeytom Market.

"A lot of small businesses in the neighborhood have really come to bat for us," says Valorie Villela, director of 30th Street Senior Services. "We'd love to see more residents from the neighborhood at the carnival, too. It will be a lot of fun."

All carnival proceeds go to support the senior center and nutrition program. Registration for the piñata contest is \$25, which can be applied to the price of a ticket. Tickets are \$50 each or \$85 per couple. To reserve your tickets or for more information, call 292-8733.

## Poll Workers Needed

Civic-minded folk in Noe Valley will have plenty of chances to help out during the Nov. 3 general election. Workers are needed at several poll sites throughout the neighborhood, including the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library and the firehouse at 419 Eureka St. Throughout the city more

than 3,500 poll workers will be assisting with the election process.

To participate, you must be a U.S. citizen, registered to vote in San Francisco, and at least 18 years old by Nov. 4 (or 16 to 17 years old and attending a San Francisco high school). Compensation ranges from \$72 to \$93 for the day.

Come in person to the Department of Elections Office at 633 Folsom St., Room 107, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday to fill out an application.

## Flea Market Seeks Donations

Time to clean out your closets and garages: the Noe Valley Ministry's annual Flea Market and Bake Sale is coming up on Saturday, Oct. 17.

This year, the organizers are especially hoping neighbors will donate old or unusual clothing or costumes. It seems quite a few locals work as extras in films and TV shows like *Nash Bridges*. Because the actors often have to furnish their own wardrobes, they are on the prowl for clothing and accessories—anything from the glamorous '20s to the tie-dyed '60s, from formal attire to casual wear. So if you're still holding on to that halterneck you outgrew in 1968, here's your chance to (maybe) see it on the big screen.

As always, the flea market will feature baked goods, books, toys, antiques, and other bargains. It will take up both floors of the Noe Valley Ministry, at 1021 Sanchez near 23rd, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

If you'd like to donate items, drop them off at the church on Friday, Oct. 16, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, or to arrange a pickup of large items, call the church at 282-2317.

## Training for Sex Info Line

If you'd like to help make more factual, nonjudgmental information about sex available, you may be a good candidate to volunteer for the San Francisco Sex Information (SFSI) switchboard, a non-profit phone line operating since 1972.

This service, which provides callers with free information and referrals, is starting up a training course on Oct. 10. Participants will take 55 hours of classes in anatomy, sexual orientation, safer sex, sexually transmitted diseases, pornography, sex toys, fetishes, birth control, and talking to kids about sex.

All applicants must attend an interview on Oct. 1 or 7. The cost for the training is \$195 for people who commit to volunteering with SFSI for 26 three-hour telephone shifts. (It's \$450 if you're just taking the training for a crash course in sex and health information.)

For more information, call the switchboard at 989-SFSI (7374), or check out the phone line's web site at [www.sfsi.org](http://www.sfsi.org).

This month's Short Takes were written by Erin O'Brian.

## Writers and Poets

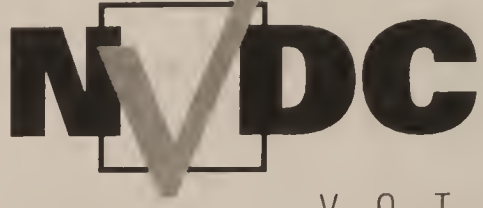
The Noe Valley Voice invites you to submit your essays, stories, and poems. We have two spots for creative writing. The Last Page is reserved for short fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry. Bylines is our place for first-person pieces on topics of community interest.

Manuscripts should be typed, double-spaced, and no more than 1,500 words for The Last Page, 800 for Bylines. Send a copy (not your original manuscript) to the Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

Please include an SASE and a phone number. Thank you.



# NOE VALLEY DEMOCRATIC CLUB



## Election Endorsements

V O T E T U E S D A Y , N O V E M B E R 3 R D

### Board of Supervisors



**Tom Ammiano**

Tom Ammiano is an independent voice fighting for the public interest. A champion of open government, neighborhood integrity and effective city services.



**Denise D'Anne**

Denise's 30-year history of activism in San Francisco is testament to her commitment, and to making City Hall listen to the needs and aspirations of our communities.



**Mark Leno**

Noe Valley resident, small business owner, Human Rights Campaign board member, Lyon-Martin Breast Cancer Fund organizer, youth anti-gun program sponsor, S.F. Supervisor



**Gavin Newsom**

Gavin Newsom has funded youth mentoring programs, initiated the AIDS license plate, increased police patrols in our parks and introduced over 100 other pieces of legislation



**Mabel Teng**

Re-elect Mabel Teng — Working for universal childcare Working to protect civil rights Working to improve our city parks and to protect our neighborhoods' character

### Board of Education



**Frank Chong**

As a parent and educator, Frank Chong believes safety, educational opportunity and parental involvement are key to improving our neighborhood schools, from Noe Valley to the Richmond.



**Mauricio Vela**

A public school parent and youth worker dedicated to an independent, responsible school board, Mauricio Vela strongly opposes the privatization of our public schools.



**Dan Kelly**

Pediatrician Dan Kelly has successfully worked for: Parent involvement, early childhood education, smaller class size, innovative arts and language programs, charter schools and higher graduation standards.

### Local Propositions

<b>A</b>	Police Retirement Benefits	<b>YES</b>
<b>B</b>	"Customer Service" Plan for City Hall	<b>NO</b>
<b>C</b>	Paramedic Retirement Benefits	<b>YES</b>
<b>D</b>	Create a New Tax Commission	<b>YES</b>
<b>E</b>	A Better Central Freeway Plan	<b>YES</b>
<b>F</b>	Continue Stadium Admission Tax	<b>YES</b>
<b>G</b>	Owner Move-in Eviction Limitations	NO RECOMMENDATION
<b>H</b>	Continue Hotel Tax Surcharge	<b>YES</b>
<b>I</b>	Explore Bay Bridge Rail Service	<b>YES</b>
<b>J</b>	Universal Healthcare Policy Declaration	<b>YES</b>

### Community College Board



**Anita Grier**

Dr. Anita Grier, a concerned educator with more than 20 years of experience, will implement education programs that are accessible and effective for all students.



**Andrea Shorter**

Andrea Shorter is an effective trustee advocating for low-income students and childcare. She provides leadership that will strengthen the College's role in our city.



**Lawrence Wong**

Lawrence Wong has worked to ensure that City College continues to be accessible to all who seek a better life through education. "Education can empower individuals and communities"

### State Propositions

**YES** on **1A, 2, 3, 4, 7, 10** and **11**

**NO** on **1, 6** and **8** (No recommendations on 5 and 9)

#### Elect

**Gray Davis**  
Governor  
**Cruz Bustamante**  
Lt. Governor  
**Bill Lockyer**  
Attorney General  
**Michela Alioto**  
Secretary of State  
**Phil Angelides**  
Treasurer  
**Diane Martinez**  
Insurance Commissioner  
**Jackie Speier**  
State Senate—8th District

#### Re-elect

**Barbara Boxer**  
U.S. Senate  
**Nancy Pelosi**  
U.S. Congress  
**Delaine Eastin**  
Supt. of Public Instruction  
**Kathleen Connell**  
State Controller  
**John Burton**  
State Senate—3rd District  
**Carole Migden**  
State Assembly—13th District  
**Kevin Shelley**  
State Assembly—12th District

The Noe Valley Democratic Club meets on the second Wednesday of every month.

**Join us for our Post-Election Wrap-Up**

Wednesday, November 11 at 7:30 pm  
Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez Street  
For information call 821-4087





# C T O B E R

**OCT. 1:** Commemorate BANNED BOOKS WEEK at a reading from the works of censored authors at the Main Library 6:30–7:30 pm. Koret Auditorium, 100 Larkin St. 557-4401

**OCT. 1:** The California NATIVE PLANT Society hosts a biographical talk about California writer and cultivator Lester Rowntree, who lived to be 100 years old. 7:30 pm. Recreation Room of the County Fair Building, 9th Ave. at Lincoln Way. 752-2718.

**OCT. 1–31:** "Aloha California," drawings by KIT CAMERON, will be featured at What's for Dessert during the month. Meet the artist Sun., Oct. 11, 10 am–noon. 27th St. at Church.

**OCT. 2:** MYSTERY writers Carolyn Hart, Mary Daheim, and Linda French sign their new books from 5–6 pm. San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

**OCT. 2 & 3:** Guitarist BILL FRISELL performs a solo concert at 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

**OCT. 2 & 4:** The Lively Foundation presents BAT TALES: dance, theater, and comedy from many countries. Fri., 8 pm, and Sun., 3 pm.

**OCT. 3:** Hurry to a JUMBO GARAGE SALE hosted by the major pack rats on the Noe Valley Voice staff. Featuring miscellany and more! From 9 am until we give up (mid-afternoon?). Corner of Sanchez and Chavez.

**OCT. 3:** The city's Rec and Park Department hosts an NFL Gatorade PUNT, PASS & KICK Competition for boys and girls, 8 to 15. 11 am. Kezar Stadium, Frederick and Willard St. Call 753-7029 for entry information.

**OCT. 3:** The third annual CARNIVAL OF CULTURES to benefit On Lok's 30th Street Senior Services features dinner, dancing, and a piñata contest. 5–11 pm. 225 30th St. 292-8733.

**OCT. 3:** St. Paul's RETRO DINNER DANCE benefits the retrofitting of the church. Cocktails and silent auction, 6:30 pm; dinner at 8 pm, and dancing until midnight. Irish Cultural Center, 2700 45th Ave. 648-7538.

**OCT. 3:** The INA CHALIS Opera Ensemble performs joyous moments from *Madama Butterfly*, *La Traviata*, and others. 8 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 826-8670.

**OCT. 4:** Hot Rods will rev up at Jimmy's 10th annual CLASSIC CAR SHOW and picnic in Lindley Meadow, Golden Gate Park. 10 am–4 pm. 386-2572.

**OCT. 4:** Bring your furry, feathered, or scaly companions (on leashes or in carriers, please!) to the BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS in honor of St. Francis. 11 am. Bethany United Methodist Church, 1268 Sanchez St. 647-8393.

**OCT. 4:** Attend 17 Reasons' BIRTHDAY BASH from noon to 6 pm. 3961 24th St. Call for reservations: 206-1717.

**OCT. 4:** All sorts of fun can be had over the hill at the CASTRO STREET FAIR. 467-3354.

**OCT. 4:** Noe Valley CHAMBER MUSIC begins its sixth season with the Walther-Bogas Duo and the Bay Brass, followed by a champagne reception. 5 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.



Guitarist Bill Frisell—who's equally comfortable in jazz, rock, country, and blues—plays two nights at the Noe Valley Music Series, Oct. 2 and 3.

**OCT. 4:** Music on the Hill (MOTH) presents "Zeitgeist 1800," works by Beethoven, Van Hall, and Kreutzer on fortepiano, clarinet, bassoon, and cello. 7 pm. St. Kevin's Church, 704 Cortland Ave. 241-1515.

**OCT. 6:** Beyond the Sea hosts an ARDMATHEAPY workshop and demonstration from 7:30–8:30 pm. 1303 Castro St. Call to register, 285-4614.

**OCT. 6:** Dr. Betty Carmack leads a PET LDSS Support Group for grieving pet owners. 7:30–9 pm. SF/SPCA, 243 Alabama St. 554-3050.

**OCT. 6:** Integral Yoga Institute offers a LAUGHING MEDITATION workshop. 7:30–9 pm. 770 Dolores St. 821-1117.

**OCT. 6, 13, 20 & 27:** Preschoolers 3 to 5 are invited to STORY TIME at the Noe Valley Library. 10 am. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

**OCT. 6, 13, 20 & 27:** Lauren Coleman's All That Jazz (DANCE) class begins at 6 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2782.

**OCT. 6, 13, 20 & 27:** 30th Street Senior Services hosts Tuesday Latin and BALLRDDM DANCE CLASSES for all levels. 2 pm. Room 325, 225 30th St. 550-2221.

**OCT. 6, 13, 20 & 27:** The city's Rec and Park Department offers free JAZZ AND BALLET classes for ages 8 to 12 through Dec. 22. 3–4 pm. Harvey Milk Recreational Arts Building, 50 Scott St. 554-9523.

**OCT. 7:** The Alternative Family Project sponsors a forum, "Considering PAR-ENTHOOD: What Are Some Options?" 7:30–9 pm. 425 Divisadero, Suite 203. 436-9000.

**OCT. 7, 14, 21 & 28:** The Noe Valley Library holds LAPSITS for infants, toddlers, and their parents. 7 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

**OCT. 8:** FILMS for children 3 to 5 will be screened at 10 and 11 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

**OCT. 8:** National DEPRESSION SCREENING Day offers free screenings; call 1-800-573-4433 for information.

**OCT. 8:** KINDERGARTEN NIGHT at the Jewish Community Center features representatives from public and private schools to answer your questions. 6 pm. 3200 California St. 346-6040.

**OCT. 9:** "Gaia Sophia," an OPERATIC THEATER piece by William Ludtke, premieres at 8 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 586-3534.

**OCT. 9:** Clarinetist Peter Arvantly, pianist Heather Heise, and French horn player Eileen Mah perform a CHAMBER MUSIC recital. 8 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

**OCT. 9–18:** Goat Hall Productions performs LEONARD BERNSTEIN'S *Trouble in Tahiti*. Fri. & Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 7 pm. The Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way. 289-6877.

**OCT. 9–24:** The Entropy Theater Company performs Brian Bonham's "Blood and Ice Cream," a PLAY set in a reform school for clowns. Fri. & Sat., 8:30 pm. The Shotwell Studios, 3252A 19th St. 289-2000.

**OCT. 10:** The PDTRERO HILL FESTIVAL begins with an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast, 8:30 to 11 am, at 953 De Haro; the evening's entertainment includes music, dance, and comedy at various venues, with motorized cable cars running between. Call 621-4455 for schedule.

**OCT. 10:** The 10th annual Laidley Street BLDCK SALE unfolds along the first three blocks, at the southern end of Noe Street. 10 am–4 pm.

**OCT. 10:** Modern Times Bookstore hosts an OPEN MIC with Leroy Moore, for the reading of all literary forms. 7 pm. 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

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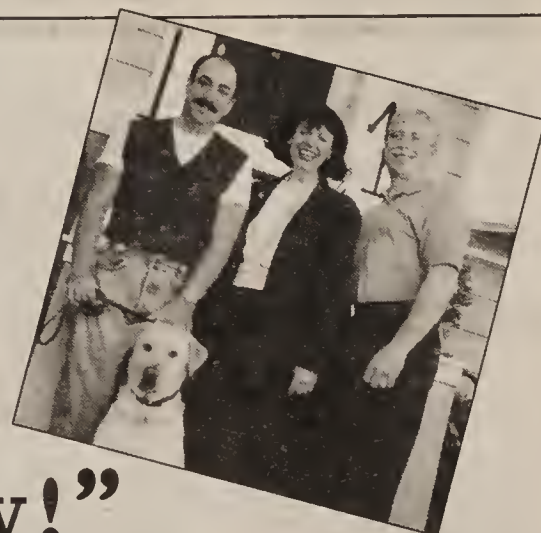
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# C A L E N D A R

**OCT. 10:** Hop on the annual HAYRIDE down 24th Street and shop the sidewalk sale sponsored by the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association. Board the ride at Walgreens, 11 am–3 pm. 282-7976.

**OCT. 10:** MYSTERY writer William Bayer (aka David Hunt) introduces another Kay Farrow novel set in San Francisco, *Trick of Light*. 2–3 pm. San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

**OCT. 10 & 11:** The annual OPEN STUDIOS tour includes Noe Valley, Castro, the Mission, Bernal Heights, and Mt. Davidson. 11 am–6 pm. Maps are available at bookstores and coffeehouses; call 861-9838 for info.

**OCT. 11:** KEITH SNYDER signs his new Jason Kellner mystery, *Coffin's Got the Dead Guy on the Inside*. 2–3 pm. San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

**OCT. 11:** Marsha Perlstein, director of the Alternative Family Project, speaks at the PFLAG monthly meeting. 3–4 pm; support groups 2–3 pm. St. Francis Church, 152 Church St. 921-8850.

**OCT. 11:** Sunday Night Vespers/EVENSONG (formerly faize/cantate) is a healing service of chants, silent meditation, and prayer. 7 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

**OCT. 15–27:** CLAY ARTIST Keith Michael exhibits "Forbidden Genders" at Ruby's Clay Studio. 552A Noe St. 558-9819.

**OCT. 16:** Children's author David Shannon will READ from his new book, *No, David!* 10:30 am. Cover to Cover Booksellers, 3910 24th St. 282-8080.

**OCT. 17:** SLUG offers a "Herbs for Health and Winter Nutrition" lecture. 10 am–noon. Garden for the Environment, 7th Ave. at Lawton. 285-7854

**OCT. 17:** The annual FLEA MARKET and bake sale put on by the Noe Valley Ministry promises a wealth of recycled treasure. 10 am–4 pm, with a gourmet lunch served from 11:30 am to 2 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317

**OCT. 17:** Kate Gamble's CAT BEHAVIOR class might help explain that odd behavior... 11 am–2 pm. SF/SPCA, 2500 16th St. 554-3050.

**OCT. 17:** Make spooky GLOW-IN-THE-DARK MASKS with Pilar Johnson. 1–3 pm. The Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way 554-9600.

**OCT. 17:** In Taylor Smith's new MYSTERY, *Random Acts*, a predator is terrorizing southern California. 2–3 pm. San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

**OCT. 17:** STELLAMARA performs at the Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry. 8:15 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

**OCT. 17–NOV. 7:** Encantada Gallery exhibits artworks and altar installations for DIA DE LOS MUERTOS; Emilio and Miguel Angel Quintana create sugar skulls Oct. 24, 25, and 29. 904 Valencia St. Call 642-3939 for times.

**OCT. 17–NOV. 21:** A drop-in SOCCER FOR GIRLS program is for ages 7 and up, and all levels and abilities. 10 am–noon, Rossi Field #2, or 2–4 pm, Palega Field #2. 753-7029, 928-0849.

**OCT. 18:** A PET FIRST-AID class offered by the SF/SPCA and Fast Response runs from 10 am–3 pm. 243 Alabama St. 1-800-637-PETS.

**OCT. 18:** Wind in the Willows preschool invites current, past, and future families to a 25th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION 1–4 pm. 1444 Church St. 285-5510

**OCT. 18:** Cover to Cover bookstore welcomes neighborhood TEACHERS to a preview and discussion of the latest children's books, plus a 15% discount on purchases. 6:30 pm. 3910 24th St. Preregister at 282-8080.

**OCT. 20:** The National Writers Union gives a NON-FICTION READING by its journalism group. 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

**OCT. 21:** S.J. Rozan's new MYSTERY, *A Bitter Feast*, marks the sixth appearance of Chinese-American investigator Lydia Chin. 5–6 pm. San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

**OCT. 22:** Create your own DREAM PARK at a community meeting sponsored by Rec and Park focusing on the Noe and Castro neighborhoods. 6–8 pm. Eureka Valley Rec Center, 100 Collingwood St. 831-2090.

**OCT. 24:** The California Bat Conservation Fund's fifth annual DAY OF THE BAT features live bats and children's activities. The Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way. Jolie, 931-9600.

**OCT. 24:** Lillian Roberts signs her third veterinarian MYSTERY, *Almost Human*, and an autobiography, *Emergency Vet*. 2–3 pm. San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

**OCT. 24:** Authors who contributed to the *Harvest Tales and Midnight Revels* will give a Halloween STORYTELLING for kids of all ages. 2 pm. Cover to Cover Booksellers. 3910 24th St. 282-8080

**OCT. 24:** Violinist Oara Saffer, pianist Tong Cheng, and cellist Elizabeth Vandervennet perform a CHAMBER MUSIC recital featuring the *Ghost Trio* by Beethoven. 8 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 647-6015

**OCT. 27:** Upper Noe Recreation Center hosts a HALLOWEEN PARTY for the Kids Gym kids (ages 1 to 3), with refreshments and Beanie Babies. 10:30 am–noon. Day & Sanchez. 695-5011

**OCT. 29:** The Excelsior Library offers a HALLOWEEN CRAFTS and stories program for kids 3 to 5 at 11 am. 4400 Mission St. 337-4735

**OCT. 30:** Sitarist Habib Khan performs INDIAN MUSIC from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. The Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Olores St. 821-1117

**OCT. 31:** The Family HALLOWEEN FEST at the Randall Museum features creepy crafts, ghoulish games, a pumpkin carving, and music by Buddy Club performer Lisa Atkinson. 11 am–3 pm. 199 Museum Way. 554-9600.

**OCT. 31:** If you're not too AFRAID, you can walk up Hoffman between 24th and Elizabeth from 5 to 8 pm, for Marilyn Lucas' 18th annual Noe Valley HAUNTED HOUSE. Ask for the Donner Party. 285-6265.

**OCT. 31:** Learn PAPEL PICADO (Mexican paper cutting) for the Day of the Dead for children ages 6 to 10. 2 pm. Glen Park Library, 653 Chenery St. Call 337-4740 for reservations.

## Are you Knitting for November?

Planning a garage sale, art show, or Christmas boutique? Want some free publicity? Then drop a line to the *Noe Valley Voice* by **Oct. 15**. That's the deadline for news and calendar items in the *November Voice*, due out on Wednesday, **Oct. 28**.

You can snail-mail your notice to the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Or you can e-mail [jaxvoice@aol.com](mailto:jaxvoice@aol.com).

For calendar changes or questions (hold your Y2K queries till next year, please), call Karol Barske at 285-6347.

**OCT. 31:** BOO AT THE ZOO, a Halloween event for kids, features a haunted nature trail, a costume parade and contest, and trick-or-treat stations. 11 am–3 pm. San Francisco Zoo, Sloat Blvd. at 45th Ave. 705-0761.

**OCT. 31:** Upper Noe Rec Center will be HAUNTED all day on Halloween. The little ones (1 to 3) are invited for treats and games from 10:30 am to noon. For kids 5 and up, the rec center lobby will become a cemetery from 1 to 4:30 pm. Beware! Day & Sanchez. 695-5011

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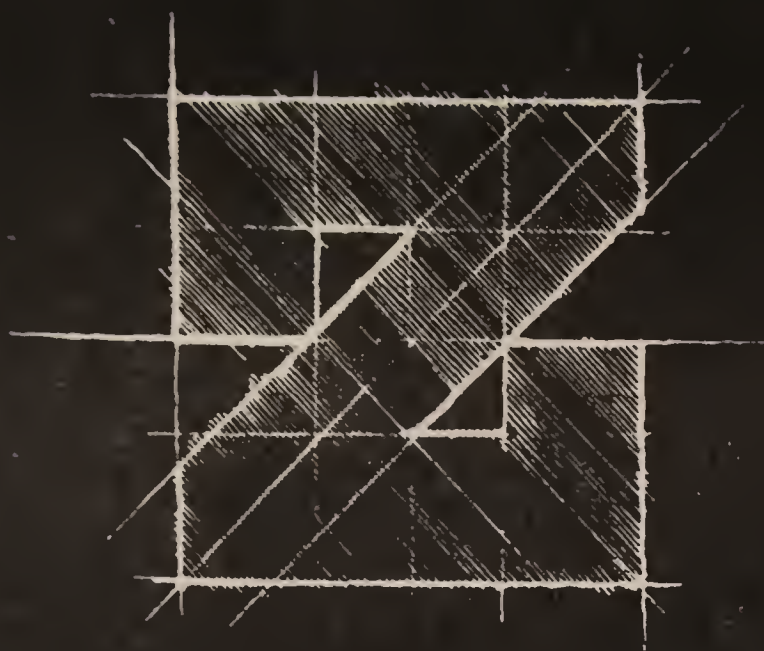
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A Quiet Moment in the Sun. At St. Philip's Church on Diamond. Photo by Pamela Gerard



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# STORE TREK

Storetrek is a regular feature of the *Noe Valley Voice* showcasing new stores and other walk-in businesses in Noe Valley. This month's column — written by Jim Christie, Erin O'Briant, and Anne Sengès—introduces a variety of shops: a chic nail salon on Castro, a movie rental store specializing in laser and digital discs, a yoga studio offering child care, a spotless laundromat at Noe and 22nd, and a home furnishings store on 24th Street.

## Let's Do Wash Coin Laundrette 3800 22nd St. (at Noe) 643-6432

There's a spanking new, sparkling clean laundromat in the 'hood at the corner of 22nd and Noe streets. Let's Do Wash opened in early July after an 18-month remodeling job by owner Dolores Shiu. She was assisted by a longtime friend, who's also a designer and contractor.

Shiu says she had wanted to open soon after acquiring the laundromat in December 1996, but she quickly realized the building needed major repairs.

Her rebuilt storefront has a fresh coat of white paint with blue trim around large plate-glass windows, and high louvered windows that bring in fresh breezes and extra light. There are two benches out front for relaxing.

The spacious interior sports a white and blue tiled floor and colorful wallpaper printed with soap bubble and tropical fish designs. There are big plastic deck chairs, a color TV, a disabled access restroom, a bill-changing machine, and a folding counter that runs the length of the shop. Shiu plans to install an espresso coffee dispenser and a six-foot, 230-gallon fish tank in October.

Here's the soap on the machines: There are 20 washers and 19 dryers. A regular wash is \$1.50 (six quarters). The dryers give you eight minutes per quarter. The larger washing machines—handling 20, 35, and 50 pounds—cost \$2.50, \$3.75, and \$4.75 a load.

Dolores Shiu was born and raised in Chinatown but now lives in the Outer Richmond. She finished a 24-year banking career before launching her own laundry business. In May 1996, she opened the first Let's Do Wash on Balboa near 38th Avenue. Seven months later, she bought the 22nd and Noe location.

Shiu prides herself on cleanliness—her laundromats are cleaned five nights a week—and boasts that after two years, her first shop looks as spiffy as it did on opening day. Visit either laundromat and you might meet her sons, 14-year-old Nicholas and 10-year-old Dominic, who help out Mom when they're not in school.

Currently Shiu is looking for an independent dry cleaner who can offer dry-cleaning services at the Noe Valley Let's Do Wash. She designed the space to accommodate this additional business. Shiu says the dry cleaner could operate rent-free in return for managing the laundromat and handling customers' drop-off laundry.

Let's Do Wash is open daily from 7:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., with "last wash" posted as 8:30 p.m.

—Jim Christie

## Yoga Shala 1500 Castro St. 970-9917

"When you walk into Yoga Shala, all the other things you're going through—work, traffic—just disappear," says owner John Robb, of his new yoga studio at the corner of Castro and 25th streets. "There are plants, and the inside is painted in calm earth tones," he adds,

"and you'll be greeted by a smiling face."

Yoga Shala, which opened on July 12, boasts a variety of yoga and meditation classes, including Hatha, Ashtanga, Iyengar, Kripalu, "flow," and "restorative" yoga. Prenatal classes are also available, and all skill levels are welcome.

Right now Yoga Shala is offering a couple of introductory deals: If you want to try the place out, just come for a class and pay \$12. If you enroll in another class or program later, the original \$12 will be credited to you.

Your \$12 credit can also apply to another special offer—60 days of unlimited use of the studio for \$60.

"Yoga Shala is very economically feasible," says Robb. "I wanted to charge the lowest level I could." In that spirit, he also offers a community yoga class for all levels for \$5 per session.

Robb thinks Noe Valley is an ideal place for a studio like his. "There are a lot of people around here like me, maybe in their mid-30s, who did all the running and aerobics when they were younger," he says. "Now that's taking its toll, but they don't want to give up physical activity. Yoga you can do for the rest of your life and get the same benefits."

Since so many local residents have young kids, Robb decided to offer free child care on weekdays. You can bring the little ones from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday.

Robb, who worked as a yoga instructor before opening the studio, is full of plans for the future. Next year the neighborhood can look forward to a series of workshops and "satsongs"—concerts in which a guru performs ancient Sanskrit chants, accompanied by drums and traditional Indian instruments. "People come listen, meditate, dance, chant, whatever they want," he says.

In addition to the studio, Yoga Shala houses a store that sells clothes, CDs, tea, books, incense, yoga mats, cards, and candles. The studio and store are both open seven days a week. Hours are 6 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on weekends.

For more information, visit Yoga Shala's web site at [www.yogashala.com](http://www.yogashala.com) or call 970-9917.

—Erin O'Briant

## Laser Cinema 1320 Castro St. (near 24th) Phone: 920-9955 Fax: 920-9927

The Castro District's loss turned into Noe Valley's gain with the July 1 opening of Laser Cinema. The store originally opened on Market Street in 1991, but a steep rent hike at the old location caused the three owners—James Healey, Ian Hendrie, and Derrick Scocchera—to seek new digs last spring. The shop now occupies Allure's old space at 1320 Castro, across from Walgreens.

Laser Cinema is a place that sells and rents films—from *The Sound of Music* to *Boogie Nights*—available on the hottest new technology. These days that's either laserdisc or the newer DVD (digital versatile disc), a platter that closely resembles a music CD. (Lasers are larger than DVDs and look like record albums.)

Laser Cinema not only offers the discs, but sells and rents the equipment to play them on. The store also buys and trades used lasers, DVDs, and disc players.

Co-owner James Healey estimates the shop has 12,000 film titles, 80 percent on laserdisc and 20 percent on DVD. "We have the largest laserdisc rental library in Northern California," he says.

The 10,000 or so lasers are displayed in bins in the center of the store and in cabinets along the walls. The smaller DVD section is near the entrance, across from the checkout counter.

Though his DVD inventory is smaller, Healey says the DVDs are definitely the



Laser Cinema co-owner James Healey says customers can choose from about 12,000 films on laser or digital disc at his Castro Street store.

Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

wave of the future because of their compact size. (The store does not carry VHS movies, although blank cassette tapes are available for about \$3.)

Laser Cinema's movies run the gamut from "Disaster Movies" and "Japanese Monsters" to documentaries and silent films. The store's most popular new releases—*Titanic* is due out Oct. 13—are organized alphabetically by title.

The store also has a special "Directors" section. Here you'll find the work of well-known auteurs such as Hitchcock or Kurosawa, as well as more obscure "mavericks who made original movies outside the Hollywood system," Healey says.

Healey believes a big plus for Laser Cinema is that all three owners are real movie buffs. When founder Ray Ross

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passed away in March, Ross left the business to his trio of former employees, for their close friendship and their love of film. The partners go out of their way to import foreign versions of American movies to get a different cut or an alternate soundtrack, Healey says. "We just got an import from Japan that hardly anyone's seen—Martin Scorsese's first feature film, *Who's That Knocking at My Door?* starring Harvey Keitel."

They also try to keep quality movie watching affordable. All movie rentals are two nights for \$3.50. Or you can buy 15 rentals for \$49.95, or 30 for \$89.95. The rental of a laserdisc or DVD player, including two movies, costs \$14.95 for

Continued on Page 30

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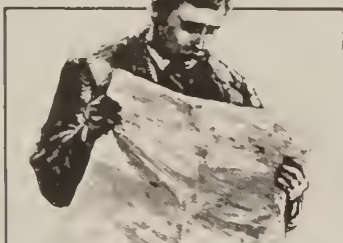
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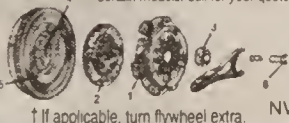
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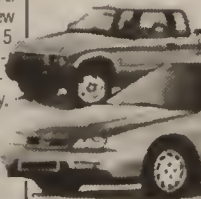
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# STORE T R E K

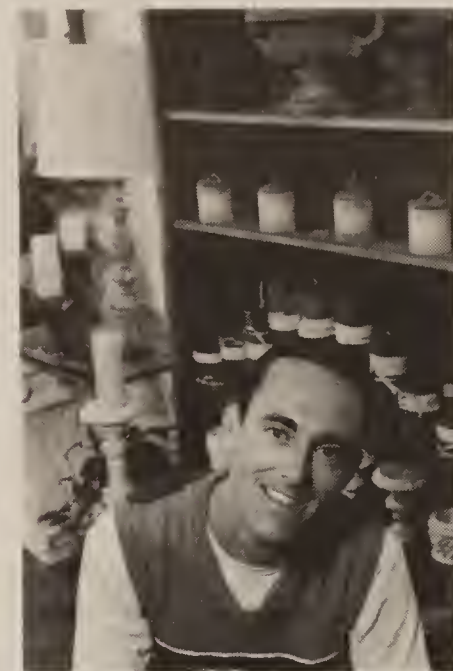
Continued from Page 29

two nights. When you reach six early (one-day) movie returns, you get a free movie rental.

Internet travelers can visit Laser Cinema's web site at [www.lasercinema.com](http://www.lasercinema.com). Healey notes the store also accepts e-mail and fax orders and will ship laserdiscs and DVDs worldwide.

Meanwhile, the live Laser Cinema is open 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week. Stop by and see what's playing on the 10-foot screen at the rear of the store.

—Jim Christie



TJ Woodward offers pedestals, urns, sculpture, table bases, and candles among many other home accessories at his 24th Street shop Home.

Photo by Najib Jae Hakim

Home.

4028-B 24th St. (near Castro)  
824-8585

When TJ Woodward decided to start his own retail business, he knew what he wanted: a place he could call Home. His new Home (which he spells with a period on the end) opened Sept. 6 in the 24th Street space formerly occupied by Star Magic.

"Noe Valley is a great neighborhood," says Woodward. "I've always enjoyed shopping here, and I saw a need for a store that carried home accessories."

Home offers architectural accent pieces, reproduction sculptures, urns, candles and candleholders, lamps and lampshades, picture frames, and pillows.

Before forging ahead on his own, Woodward enjoyed a 15-year career in retail, including a stint at Neiman Marcus. His visual merchandising skills are evident in the design and layout of Home.

A newly tiled foyer leads customers into a cozy interior whose walls are painted in subtle shades of blue, yellow, lime green, purple, brown, and orange. The floor has the appearance of suede, a look Woodward achieved with a "rusted iron" finish.

Home's specialty is cast items for indoor use, created with a composition of crushed cement and heavy gypsum. Many of the statues and plaques have the look and feel of Greco-Roman antiquities, and depict cherubs, horses, roosters, or Buddha images.

Woodward employs a California-based family of casters who have been in business for almost a hundred years, to hand-pour the castings. And because Woodward offers every item in 12 unique finishes (verdigris and rusted iron are two favorites), he also maintains an off-site

storage and finishing facility.

The smaller items on display at Home, such as decorative plaques, corbels, and small candleholders, are wall-mounted, while the larger urns, table bases, and consoles rest on sisal fiber carpets in the central area and on slate surfaces near the front window display.

Small urns, pots, and planters range from \$18 to \$68, small wall plaques from \$28 to \$68, and large plaques and urns from \$98 to \$148. Lamps are all \$78 (excluding shades.) Table consoles are \$148, while table bases run from \$198 to \$248 (glass tabletops are extra).

Woodward says his best-selling gift items are the aromatherapy and scented candles, as well as hand-rolled "tinber" candles (\$8 to \$28). Cast candleholders run from \$18 to \$48.

If customers don't find what they want in the store, they can peruse Woodward's 40-page catalog, which lists his complete inventory. Warehouse items take about a week to arrive at the store, he says. Special orders usually take about a month.

Home's web site ([www.homesanfrancisco.com](http://www.homesanfrancisco.com)) is currently in the construction phase, but customers will be able to order online in the near future, Woodward says.

Home's hours are 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays (closed Tuesdays), and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekends.

—Jim Christie

Nail Chic

1303-D Castro St.  
970-9301

A nail salon called Nail Chic now inhabits Out of Hand's old spot on Castro near 24th Street. And true to its name, the salon is chic and sophisticated.

When you open the door, you enter a spacious room bathed in warm pastel colors and soft lights. A welcoming staff makes you feel comfortable right away.

"I did not want my store to be all black and white like other nail salons," says 23-year-old Nghia Nguyen, owner/manager of the store. "Most of all, I wanted a warm and inviting ambiance," she says. Nguyen chose the decorations and furniture to create a relaxing atmosphere. She hopes her shop's prices will be inviting as well.

Nail Chic provides all the standard beauty treatments for hands and feet. The salon also offers facials and waxing. A simple manicure is \$6. If you want both a manicure and pedicure, the price is \$12. A facial is \$35, and a full leg waxing \$24.

Painting nails is something that runs in Nguyen's family. Her mother owns Perfect 10, a manicure business that's been a fixture on Church Street for more than a decade. When she was a teenager, Nguyen would come straight home from school to help her mom in the salon.

"Getting my license was just a normal adjustment," says Nguyen, who was born in Vietnam but came to the U.S. when she was 5. "My mom insisted I should have my own store," she smiles.

When asked why she chose this location knowing that her mother runs her own salon only a few blocks away, Nguyen says that Noe Valley is simply the neighborhood to operate a business.

What makes Noe Valley so attractive? "I love the people. They are great and very funny. And the neighborhood has a lot of stores that are different and unique. And of course there's the weather," says Nguyen, who lives in the Richmond District and appreciates seeing the sun when she comes to work every day.

Even though "there are around six or seven [other manicure] stores in Noe Valley and this neighborhood is not very big either," Nguyen says she and her mother are not worried about the competition. "My mom and I have been doing this for 10 years."

Nail Chic is open seven days a week. Hours are 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday; 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sundays.

—Anne Sengès



## Fellow Travelers

Though some of us editors have a laptop and a frequent flyer account with an airline that's not even on strike, we don't get out much. So it's with some envy that we present this monthly travelogue featuring our more mobile readers. But thanks to them, we get to see a bit more of the world beyond our print distribution boundaries. And that's something. Keep those cards and letters coming.



David Waters of Noe Valley—and his father Harry, who lives in San Mateo—posed together at Kylemore Abbey on the west coast of Ireland this August.



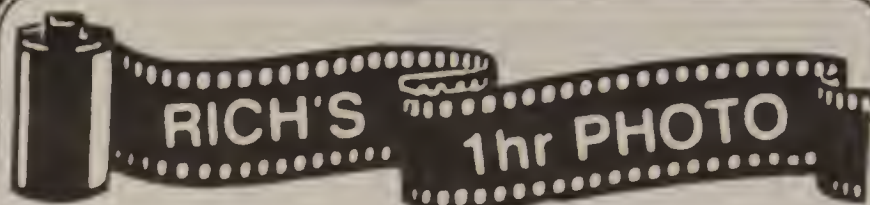
Robert Gregory and his wife Jan, who have lived in Noe Valley since 1975, took a news break at the Forum during their summer trip to Italy.



Oldest son Kellan Gregory took his turn in front of the camera after touring the ruins.

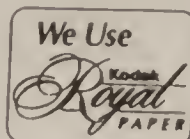


Anne Sekara of 27th Street took a trip to Poland in July to work with Habitat for Humanity and showed some of her Polish co-workers what makes for neighborhood news back home.



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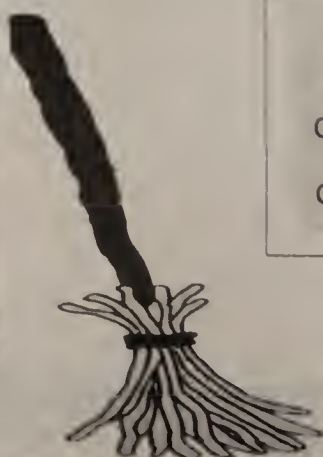
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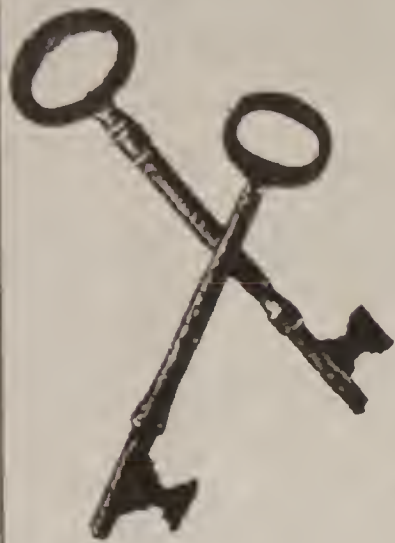


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Two metal streetcar signs, each about a foot square, failed to turn up when a Noe Valley Library history exhibit was taken down this summer. If you come across them, notify the library or call Paul Kantus at 647-3753.

## Pieces of Noe Valley's Past Missing

Though Noe Valley History Month at our local library branch was a great success, some items were missing when the display was taken down at the end of July.

Two metal signs, one a red Market Street Railway shield and the other a yellow square with a black "11" on it — a relic from the old 11-Hoffman streetcar line — are nowhere to be found. Both signs are about a foot square and are made of fairly heavy metal.

They were on loan from Richard Schlaich, a longtime resident of Noe Valley who owns a large collection of San Francisco streetcar memorabilia.

If you have any knowledge of the whereabouts of these historic signs, or if you see them at a flea market or garage sale, please contact Paul Kantus at 647-3753. Kantus, who heads the Noe Valley Archives, says the library will gladly take them back, no questions asked.

The Noe Valley Library is located at 451 Jersey St. This year's Noe Valley History Day celebration, an annual neighborhood get-together, took place June 13.

"When something like this happens, it's sad for all of us, because collectors may be reluctant to loan out their treasures in the future," said Kantus. □



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Illustrated Reminiscences  
by Florence Holub

### A Summer of Ants and Ivy

One of the joys of living in our hill-top house, with its view of the "big city" out the front window, is its country-like vista out the back. I've spent many a happy afternoon chopping vegetables or washing dishes at the sink and looking out the kitchen window at the lovely greenery that cloaks our back yard and the houses on either side.

When we moved here in 1942, the garden already boasted a wonderful variety of plants—a snowball bush, quince, mock orange, peonies, cotoneasters, Shasta daisies, Cécile Brunner roses, bougainvillea, and at least five kinds of delightful little wildflowers. We hoped we'd be able to nurture them forever, but alas, we soon discovered that Noe Valley harbored an abundance of creepy crawly creatures, many of whom considered our garden their own private smorgasbord.

Every time a plant or flower disappeared, I'd clip a sprig of English Ivy and stick it in the ground. The ivy soon sprouted tiny yellow and then green leaves, and began to serve as ground cover.

I also planted another hardy staple—geraniums, in several different colors. The geraniums filled the spaces left by the fuchsias, which had succumbed to a neighborhood plague of sorts. (A friend who works as a landscape gardener told me that Noe Valley's fuchsia population was almost wiped out by disease in the '70s.)

At about the same time, I noticed that our garden was being invaded by a larger, more aggressive ivy. This creeper began to take over any remnants of space between the geraniums and the English Ivy, and to climb up all the shrubs and trees, as well as the fence surrounding our property.

My man Leo and I certainly appreciated all these vibrant green plants, whose chloroplasts were busily converting water into food and releasing oxygen for us humans to breathe.

But the foliage was getting so thick and heavy that it obscured the bamboo plant at the rear of the yard and caused the fence to tilt forward at a dangerous slant. Last month, fearing that the fence might fall on one of us, Leo declared war upon the marauding ivy.

Day after day—armed with clippers, crowbar, and a saw—he attacked the monster, hacking the vines away with gusto. As the "sorcerer's apprentice," I carted off the piles of debris right after he created them, to ensure that the ivy wouldn't reroot somewhere else in the garden!



In order to carry the unwieldy, thorny piles through the house to the dumpster out front, I tied them into bundles using strips of fabric torn from old sheets. But after knocking some of Leo's photogra-

phy supplies off the basement shelves, I began wrapping the bundles in a canvas tarp. Otherwise, I'd have been in big trouble!

My bundles consisted mainly of three vines—the small, refined English Ivy; a larger, yellow and green variegated plant called arum ivy; and an even larger species, with leathery leaves as big as a spread hand. This last one was especially aggressive and fast-growing.

Leo and I labored four or five hours a day, every day for three weeks. Each evening we'd come into the house exhausted and not good for anything except a hot bath. Then we'd wake up each morning refreshed and ready for another round.

After clearing about five feet of space around the sagging fence, we stood there staring at the fence and wondering how on earth we were going to fix it. It was so distorted from years of abuse that fixing it appeared hopeless.

Fortunately, at just that moment, our good friend André dropped in. What looked like an impossible task to us was "a piece of cake" to him. As superintendent of a large construction company, André knew just how to restore and secure the fence, which he did in short order. It stands even straighter now than before. Our sincere thanks, André!

Now that we have removed the offending ivy, we can see all the way down the path to the bamboo. The other side of the yard remains filled with vegetation, but Leo has started to clip away at it, too. The only vine that will be spared is the wisteria, which lies draped over the railing of our deck, its green leaves weighted by deep lavender blooms.

As I inspected these blooms recently, I noticed a sooty black coating on one



of the buds. Upon closer inspection, I saw that the branch and bud were teeming with life, but on such a small scale that I had to resort to a magnifying glass.

Through the lens I witnessed something that science books often talk about: an ant colony. The ants were scurrying up and down the stem, to and from some sooty-looking black specks, which were in fact tiny aphids, sometimes called "ant cows" because they are controlled and herded like cattle by the worker ants.

The ants seemed to be bumping into the tiny "cows," but after some research, I learned they were actually stroking the aphids to induce the excretion of a sweet honeydew, which the ants then took to their queen and her infants.

Ah well, I suppose our yard is big enough to share with these industrious and interesting insects, as long as they stay out of the kitchen. But if they venture inside the house, they will be met with a dose of Combat ant bait that will do them in, queen and all!

If we can summon the energy, Leo and I will try to replant our garden before the rains come. After that, we intend to remain vigilant, keeping an eye out for the slightest sign of the creeping green menace.

After all, since nothing seems to stand in its way, the ivy is a potential threat not only to us, but to all our good neighbors in Noe Valley, and even perhaps to the whole planet! □

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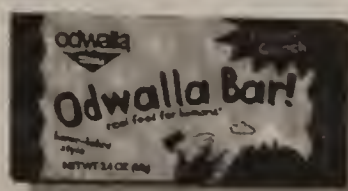
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**Say hi to the Grim Reaper.** Last year's trick-or-treaters on 24th Street stopped in Phoenix Books, only to find a cashier who was all skin and bones! Photo by Pamela Gerard

## Kids' Picks

### A Few Favorite Halloween Haunts

By Dodie Hamblen

Pumpkins and scarecrows are popping up on doorsteps throughout the neighborhood. Fall is here, and children of all ages will want to kick off this month's harvest festivities with a free, old-fashioned hayride down 24th Street, sponsored by the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association.

The horse-drawn hay wagon will board in front of Walgreens at Castro and 24th, on Saturday, Oct. 10, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Passengers will go for a slow roll down 24th Street to Vicksburg, south on Vicksburg to Jersey, then back to Castro.

"Neighborhood merchants will have sidewalk sales on that day. Local businesses will donate refreshments, and free fingerprinting kits will be handed out to parents of young children in an effort to raise child safety awareness," says the event's committee chair, Michael Glazer, of All State Insurance. For more information, call Glazer at 642-6569.

The Upper Noe Recreation Center, at the corner of Day and Sanchez streets, will be buzzing with activity throughout Halloween week. On Tuesday, Oct. 27, the Rec Center will kick off its Halloween festivities with a party for Kids' Gym participants (ages 1 to 3) during the regular Kids' Gym time, 10:30 a.m. to noon. Refreshments, music, and Beanie Babies will abound. "Don't forget to wear a costume!" says Upper Noe Rec Center director Chris Borg.

On Halloween morning, tots can celebrate at a second Kids' Gym party from 10:30 a.m. to noon. And the Rec Center invites neighborhood kids, 5 and up, to come on over for yet another party from 1 to 4:30 p.m. The Rec Center lobby will be decorated as a "haunted but not scary" cemetery, says Borg, and there'll be free carnival games and treats for all.

Hobnobbing hobgoblins will find

plenty of other opportunities for Halloween fun in and around the neighborhood. Here are a few more activities for your little demons to choose from:

**Scariest Costume Contest.** Witches, ghosts, and fairy princesses can parade down to Real Food Company, 3939 24th St., to enter the store's third annual Halloween Costume Contest. Kids 12 and under can stop by the store any time on Halloween to have their photo taken and get a healthy treat. A grocery bag of goodies from the store will be awarded to winners in each of three categories: funniest, scariest, and most original. Winners will be announced the following week.

"We have a lot of fun with this," says store manager Beth Saunders. "Last year we had about 50 entries. The best part is that everybody gets their photo put up in the store window."

**Spookiest Window Display.** Trick-or-treaters who want to see the spookiest window in the neighborhood should stop by the One Stop Party Shop, at Church and 28th streets, on Halloween Day. Owner Marty Van Dervort and staff will be stirring their cauldron and handing out treats until 9 p.m.

**Eerieest Haunted House.** Noe Valley's "Haunted House Lady" Marilyn Anne Lucas will be raising spirits once again with her 18th annual Haunted House. "Come and find out what they didn't teach you in California history class," Lucas says. "This year we will chill you with the Gold Rush tale of the Donner Party," authenticated, she adds, by the contents of an old and rare book signed by the last surviving Donner Party member.

Located on Hoffman between 24th and Elizabeth streets, the Lucas Haunted House will reveal its tales of terror from 5 to 8 p.m. The first 300 visitors brave enough to enter will receive a treat bag.

"The children and I have a woowooooonderful time!" Lucas cackles. She attributes the success of her yearly endeavor to the support she receives from friends, neighbors, and cadavers. Those interested in helping out can give her a call at Lu-

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The Randall Museum is located at 199 Museum Way. Call 554-9600 for more information. And don't forget to wear a costume! Have a safe and happy Halloween!

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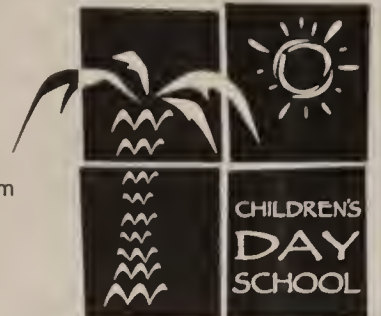
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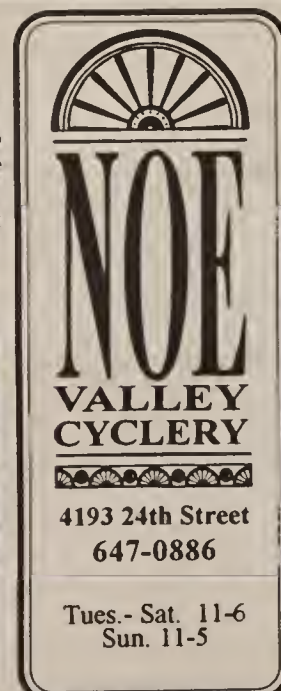
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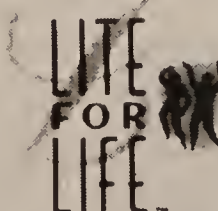
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## MORE MOUTHS TO FEED

By Maire Farrington

### Dylan Baker-Flynn

Just hours before Dylan Baker-Flynn was born, his mother summoned an ambulance. But Laurie Baker-Flynn was not having a medical emergency. She was simply trying to contact her husband, Owen Baker-Flynn, who works as an emergency medical technician.

"All week long, Owen had been telling the dispatcher, 'Don't send me out of town, my wife's expecting any day now,'" Laurie relates. "Friday morning, they were stationed in the neighborhood waiting for a call, and then they sent him to Vallejo. My water broke that afternoon."

Fortunately, Owen got the message and made it to Kaiser Medical Center in time. "I was there for every contraction," he jokes. "I didn't miss a thing."

At 12:20 a.m. on Jan. 24, 1998, Laurie and Owen welcomed their 8-pound, 12-ounce son into the world.

Dylan was born with "a ton" of dark brown hair. But now his locks are a shade or two lighter. He has deep-blue eyes that sparkle whenever he flashes his (currently) toothless grin.

"I see a lot of Owen in him," says Laurie, "but a lot of the baby pictures of the two of them look alike," she adds, referring to Dylan's 6½-year-old sister, Sara, a "More Mouths" baby herself.

As for their son's name, Laurie and Owen say they each arrived at Dylan on their own, while scanning separate lists of names. "We had no boy's names. We were just looking through books, and we both came up with Dylan," says Owen.

Sara's preferred moniker for her brother — Neptune — was voted down, "though Neptune Baker-Flynn doesn't sound bad," Owen quips.

Both Laurie, 40, and Owen, 41, hail from Rhode Island. They met in 1976 while working at a summer theater in Providence and relocated to San Francisco in 1982. Wedding bells rang in 1988, and they moved to their home on 22nd Street in 1989 — "the year of the earthquake," Owen recalls. "We had to peel our cat off the ceiling."

Owen has kept up his love of theatrics by performing as a fire-eater and juggler



Dylan Baker-Flynn is the newest acrobat to join the Flying Baker-Flynns, composed of dad Owen, mom Laurie, and 6½-year-old sister Sara.

Photo by Beverly Thorp

at Pier 39. Laurie teaches kindergarten at Alvarado School, and Dylan was thrilled to have Mom's full-time attention over the summer break.

During a family vacation in Hawaii, Dylan delighted in trips to Waikiki Beach. "He liked playing there," Laurie says. "I would sit at the edge of the water and let him kick. He also likes his baths at home, where he can sit and splash." Sister Sara agrees. "He's always splashing me in the eye," she says. Dylan also recently flew out to Rhode Island, to get some hugs and kisses from his grandparents.

Now a strapping 21 pounds, Dylan is a baby "on the move," says Laurie. "He's never content to watch—he's got to be doing things. He's not crawling yet, but he likes to roll and 'scootch.' He's already grabbing anything he can get his hands on."

"The fire-eating stuff is all put away," deadpans Owen.

Dad also observes that Dylan is "pretty good-natured. I haven't noticed any mean streaks yet."

"But he's a definite boy," he notes. On a recent trip to the Price Club, Dylan slept peacefully in his father's frontpack, waking only to gaze in awe at the tools in the hardware department. He loves to watch

televised baseball games, too. "I have no idea why," Owen muses. "It might be the big guys swinging bats."

Dylan is also a fan of his big sister, who often joins him on the floor in the "rolling-around game." He listens with rapt attention when Sara serenades him. "I give him music lessons," she says.

If Dylan follows in his sister's footsteps, he may land a modeling career. "Sara was a Gap baby, so as soon as he can sit up, we're going to try to get him into a Gap ad," Owen says. Sara, though, has her doubts. "He might be too squirmy," she points out.

Dylan works off some of his boundless energy on day hikes around the city. And he frequently ventures to 24th Street, a steady source of entertainment.

"He likes to be around other people, and there are lots of other babies to look at," Mom says.

On one jaunt, Dylan discovered a Noe Valley food staple. "He had his first baby bagel from Manhattan Bagel, and he loved it," Laurie says. "We were doing errands, and he sucked on it for almost an hour."

This Halloween, Dylan may join in the

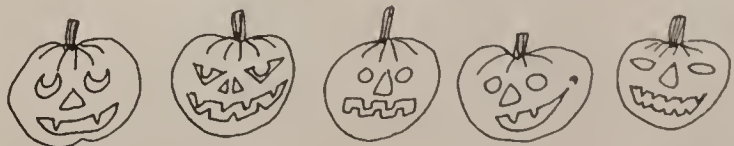
family tradition of wearing coordinated costumes, or he may simply watch Dad entertain the trick-or-treaters with his pyro act.

Now that they're a foursome, the Baker-Flynns admit that life is a bit like a circus.

"Having two kids is more than twice the work—it's more like four times the work," say Mom and Dad. Still, they're thrilled that Dylan has joined the troupe.

"The energy of a baby around the house again has been great," Laurie says. "Everything is so new to him. The first peekaboo, the first toy that rattles, he lights up. It's like, wow! This really is great!" □

**More Mouths to Feed** wants to show off your newest family member. If you have welcomed a new baby into the house, or adopted a teenager, please send your announcement to the *Noe Valley Voice*, More Mouths to Feed, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. We'd also appreciate a phone number, so we can arrange for the family portrait—no charge. □



**T**'was the month before Halloween and all through Noe Valley, and folks are carving their pumpkins and making plans to visit Small Frys for those cool baby costumes they've got down there (while visions of candy corn danced in their heads).




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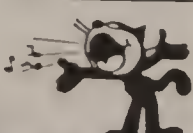
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## MORE BOOKS to READ

### Latest Acquisitions at the Noe Valley Library

The Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library is housed at 451 Jersey St. (near Castro). In addition to books, magazines, and CDs, the library offers a deck and garden, a display of Noe Valley photos and memorabilia, access to the Internet, and an index to the *Noe Valley Voice*. For the investment-minded, the branch now receives *Value Line* and *Morningstar Mutual Funds*. New books are described below by Head Librarian Roberta Greifer and Children's Librarian Carol Small. To check out their availability, call 695-5095 or drop by the branch Tuesdays, 10 to 9; Wednesdays, 1 to 9; Thursdays, 10 to 6; Fridays, 1 to 6; or Saturdays, noon to 6.

#### Adult Fiction

◆ In Fay Weldon's *Big Girls Don't Cry*, five 20-something women abandon their ho-hum, sexist relationships and form a feminist publishing house.

◆ Set in 1930s' Nova Scotia, with the foreshadowing of World War II, *The Museum Guard* by Howard Norman portrays the changing relationships between three people—a museum guard, his nephew, and the caretaker of a small Jewish cemetery both of them are drawn to.

◆ Told mostly from the point of view of a young geologist in search of oil, *Where the Sea Used to Be*, by Rick Bass, depicts the bonds between nature and a disparate group of loners who call the Montana wilderness home.

#### Adult Nonfiction

◆ In *After Silence: Rape and My Journey Back*, author Nancy Raine explores the psychological and physiological repercussions of rape and gives a poetic account of her own pain and healing.

◆ *Healing Lessons*, by cancer expert Sidney Winawer, M.D., chronicles how he changed as a doctor and a husband when forced to confront his wife's stomach cancer.

◆ In her "exposé" titled *Other People's Dirt*, veteran housecleaner Louise Rafkin reveals the inner and outer lives of her employers.

Adult annotations by Roberta Greifer

#### Films for Kids

◆ The library will show *films* for children ages 3 to 5 on Thursday, Oct. 8, starting at 10 a.m. If the kids like 'em, they can see 'em again at 11 a.m.

#### Tell Me a Story

◆ Kids in the 3 to 5 age bracket who can't resist a good story should come by for *preschool story time*. It's 10 a.m. on Tuesdays, Oct. 6, 13, 20, and 27.

#### Children's Fiction

◆ In autumn, each of the animals reminds another animal about hibernating in *Time to Sleep* by Denise Fleming. *Ages 2 to 4.*

◆ Helping children, lifting children, and playing with children are just a few of the loving tasks performed by fathers in *Lots of Dads*, by Shelley Rotner and Sheila M. Kelly. *Ages 2 to 4.*

◆ After observing a variety of colors, a kitten declares the color of mother cat's fur to be the favorite in *Cat's Colors* by Jane Cabrera. *Ages 2 to 4.*

◆ Two best friends have some concerns about the beginning of school, but they manage to work things out in *Sparky and Eddie: The First Day of School*, an easy reader by Tony Johnston. *Ages 6 to 7.*

◆ Although at first frightened by a neighbor with a "sickness...inside her head," Dora later comes to see that she can befriend the neighbor in *The Face at the Window* by Regina Hanson. *Ages 8 and up.*

◆ "The Skull That Spoke," "Skeleton's Revenge," and "A Night of Terrors" are some of the eerie offerings in *Even More Short & Shivery: 30 Spine-Tingling Tales*, retold by Robert D. San Souci. *Ages 9 and up.*

◆ After getting in trouble in class, Bobby tries to apply his talent at comedy to the school-sanctioned "Great Laugh-Off" in *My Life as a Fifth-Grade Comedian*, by Elizabeth Levy. *Ages 10 and up.*

#### Children's Nonfiction

◆ Walter Dean Myers describes a complex episode in American history involving a slave mutiny in *Amistad: A Long Road to Freedom*. *Ages 10 and up.*

Children's annotations by Carol Small

#### Infant and Toddler Lapsits

◆ Children's librarian Carol Small will lead the rocking, rhymes, and lullabies at the Wednesday evening *lapsits*, starting at 7 p.m. on Oct. 7, 14, 21, and 28.

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**Tall tailgater.** This youngster could rule the sidewalk if it weren't for that man following him, who seems to take a keen interest in the three-wheeler's direction up 24th Street.

Photo by Charles Kennard

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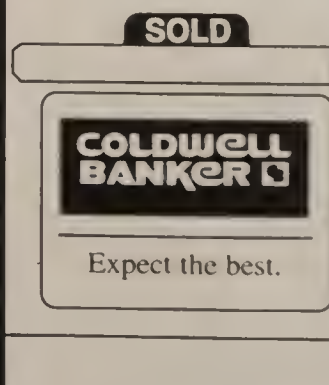
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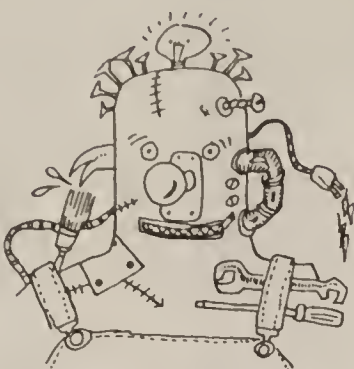

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## MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

### Amnesty International Group 80

Contact: Lauren Fondahl, 587-7299  
Mailing Address: 562 Bright St.,  
San Francisco, CA 94132  
Meetings: First Thursday of month, Noe  
Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., 7:30 p.m.

### Business Network International

Contact: Mike Hager, president, 285-7409  
Mailing Address: 276 29th St.,  
San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Every Tuesday, 8 to 9:30 a.m.  
Miss Millie's Restaurant, 4123 24th St.

### Castro Area Planning + Action

Contact: Linton Stables, 541-0344, ext. 230;  
[capa@home4us.org](mailto:capa@home4us.org)  
Meetings: Second Thursday of month,  
Eureka Valley Recreation Center,  
100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

### Diamond Heights Community Association

Contact: Robert Dockendorff, 826-3867  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529,  
San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: First Thursday of month,  
7:30 p.m. Call for location.

### Dolores Heights Improvement Club

Contact: Amy Powell, 647-4228  
Mailing Address: 3732 21st St.,  
San Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: Bimonthly; membership meetings  
semi-annually. Call for details.

### Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)

Contact: Evelyn Martin, 826-6734; Keith  
Eickman, 282-8988; Dennis Downing,  
647-0937; or Deanna Mooney, 821-4045  
Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St.,  
San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Held periodically. Call for details.

### East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club

Contact: Paul Kantus, 647-3753  
Mailing Address: 492 Douglass St.,  
San Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: First Wednesday of month, Noe  
Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:30 p.m.

### Eureka Valley Promotion Association

Contact: Lion Barnett, 255-3428  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 14137,  
San Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: Third Thursday (except July,  
August, and December), Eureka Valley Rec-  
reation Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7 p.m.

### Fair Oaks Neighbors

Contact: Paul Nixon, 647-5183  
Mailing Address: 163 Fair Oaks St.,  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
Meetings: Call for details.

### Fairmount Neighborhood Association

Contact: Susan Nutter, 285-8484  
Mailing Address: 78 Harper St.,  
San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Held periodically at Upper Noe  
Recreation Center, Day & Sanchez, 7 p.m.

### Friends of Noe Valley

Contact: Harry Stern, 821-1086  
Mailing Address: 4250 26th St.,  
San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Second Thursday of month,  
Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:45 p.m.

### La Leche League of San Francisco

Contact: Thalia DeWolf, 641-8366  
Mailing Address: 47 Costa St.,  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
Meetings: First Tuesday of month, Bernal  
Heights Library, Cortland & Moultrie,  
10:15 a.m.

### Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association

Contact: Julie Dilley, president, 647-7196,  
[jdilley@earthlink.net](mailto:jdilley@earthlink.net); Joanna Sacks, vice  
president, 495-1470, [joanna@softmed.com](mailto:joanna@softmed.com)  
Mailing Address: 3288 21st St., Box 44,  
San Francisco, CA 94110

Meetings: Executive board meets first  
Tuesday of month; general meetings  
quarterly. Call for details.

### Noe Valley Democratic Club

Contact: Dave Monks, 821-4087  
Mailing Address: 1652 Dolores St. #6,  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
Meetings: Second Wednesday of month,  
7 p.m. Call for location.

### Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association

Contact: Robert Roddick, president,  
641-8692  
Mailing Address: Robert T. Roddick,  
Noe Valley Law Offices, P.O. Box 460574,  
San Francisco, CA 94114-6003  
Meetings: Last Wednesday of month,  
Bank of America, 24th & Castro, 9 a.m.

### Noe Valley Senior Center

Call 648-1030 for lunch reservations.  
Mailing Address: 1021 Sanchez St.,  
San Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: Lunch, Mon.-Fri. (donation  
\$1.50), 12:30 p.m. Discussion, arts and  
crafts, Wed. & Fri., 10:30 a.m.  
Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.

### Outer Noe Valley Merchants

Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500  
Mailing Address: 294 29th St.,  
San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: First Monday of month,  
St. Paul's Church cafeteria, 3 p.m.

### Upper Noe Neighbors

Contact: Janice Gendreau, 641-5989  
Mailing Address: 403 28th St.,  
San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Every other month, Upper Noe  
Recreation Center, Day & Sanchez.  
Call for specifics.



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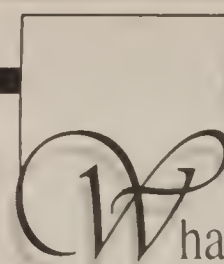
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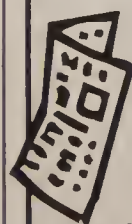
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**Screenwriting Class in Noe Valley.** If you have an idea for a movie, or often see the world in terms of film, then why not learn how to write a compelling, properly formatted script? Whether you are aiming for Hollywood or independent film, this class is where you can start. You will write the first draft of a screenplay, learn how to pitch your script, and find out about film genres, dialogue, structure, and the collaborative nature of this art form. Six Sunday afternoons, Nov. 1 to Dec. 13, plus two private consultations (no class Nov. 29), 2 to 5 p.m. \$250. Instructor Julie Oxendale, an award-winning screenwriter with credits in the U.S. and abroad, has been writing screenplays for 15 years. She also teaches screenwriting at the Academy of Art. Call The Writing Parlor, 642-7875 to sign up.

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**Bed and Breakfast,** quaint garden suite, spacious, front room, full kitchen, big bedroom and office area, laundry room, modern bathroom, ornamental gas fireplace, arched window view of garden with flowers, ground level, separate entrance, quiet, near 26th and Sanchez, close to shopping and transportation, privacy. Additional rooms available. Call 415-206-0202.

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**It's easy.** Just type or print the text of your ad, multiply the number of words by **30¢ a word**, and enclose a check or money order for the total amount. Note that phone numbers, including area code, count as one word.

Mail your ad and check, made out to the *Noe Valley Voice*, so that we receive it by the 15th of the month before the month you'd like to advertise in. Even if the ad is a renewal from a prior issue, please send us the full text of your ad.

**Discount for Repeat Advertisers:** The *Noe Valley Voice* publishes a news edition 10 months a year. (We're on vacation in January and August.) If you place the *same* class ad in 10 issues, you are entitled to a 10 percent discount. To figure your cost, deduct 10 percent from the total amount due for 10 issues.

The next *Noe Valley Voice* will be the November 1998 edition, hitting the streets of Noe Valley on Wednesday, Oct. 28. The deadline for Class Ads is **Oct. 15**. The address is **Noe Valley Voice Class Ads, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114**.

Sorry, the *Voice* is unable to accept Class Ads by phone or e-mail at this time. The ads are displayed on our web site: [www.noevalleyvoice.com](http://www.noevalleyvoice.com).

Class advertisers should keep in mind that only the first few words of the ad (not to exceed one line of type) will be set in bold. Also, receipts and tear sheets will be provided only if your order is accompanied by an SASE. Thank you. □

**Word Processing:** Manuscripts, theses, dissertations, tape transcription, editing. Joanne, 431-0603.

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**Vacation Retreat for Noe Valleyans.** Calistoga/St. Helena area. Three bedrooms, two baths, sleeps six (maximum); large decks with views of stream/forest; fireplace with wood supplied, 30 acres, trails, all-year stream; \$250/two-night weekend, \$275/three-night weekend, \$75/night mid-week with two-night minimum; \$500/week; \$1,500/month. Ten percent discount to all repeat guests. 647-3052.

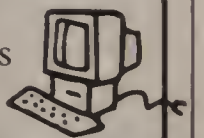
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**Words Wanted:** The *Noe Valley Voice* welcomes submissions of poems, stories, and essays, particularly those with neighborhood themes. Payment upon publication. Send manuscript (typed, please), plus name, address, and phone, to the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

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## and now for the RUMORS behind the news

### Real News

By Mazook

FORTY-NINER GOLD has found its way to Noe Valley. Reliable sources say that San Francisco 49ers owner Eddie DeBartolo Jr. recently signed a check for \$860,000 to buy his daughter a brand new house in our neighborhood. It was her 21st birthday present.

DeBartolo's daughter works for the 49ers, and reportedly moved to the neighborhood last month.

I don't want to tell you where she lives, but I can give you a clue: The 1849ers shouted this when they found gold, and it is now our state's motto.

Apparently Eddie got a bargain since the builder was asking \$995,000 and not getting it.

☎☎☎

THE 'FOR SALE' SIGNS on the historic Axford mansion and carriage house on the corner of Noe and 25th streets (1190 Noe) will soon disappear.

"The escrow is about to close on the main house," says Ginger Karels, who with B.J. Droubi brokered the deal.

Actually, the two structures are on separate lots and were sold separately. The carriage house sold for \$430,000, and the main house went for close to the asking price, which was \$699,000.

The main house was built in 1877 by ironworker William Axford. He also built



The 24th Street building that once housed Suzie's Laundry was hung out to dry last month. Our spies tell us the gutted Victorian will be converted to five residential units above a large retail space. But no one knows what kind of store yet.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

a foundry (now the carriage house) "up 25th Street." He then turned his iron works into a manufacturing business specializing in frying pans. You can still see evidence of Axford's personal workmanship on the property — the iron fence around the house, for instance.

Departing owner Mike Underhill labored long and hard to have the house declared a San Francisco landmark (it's landmark #133). During his research, Mike learned that Axford sold the buildings to the Strahle family at the turn of the century. They were butchers, and they were the ones who converted the foundry into a carriage house and stable.

Mike bought the carriage house in 1983 and the main house in 1986. He and his family have lovingly maintained the Victorian house and rose garden ever since.

Mike says he is moving to the South of Market area for a while, "to try the loft life. But I'll be back."

IF YOU LIKE TALKING real estate, then you should take a gander at the house for sale at the top of Sanchez Hill near 21st Street. The house, at 818 Sanchez St., is the last of four luxury homes built by Seamus McGree and designed by San Francisco architect Stephen Roake. It has a price tag of \$1,795,000.

The four-bedroom, 5 1/2-bath house has three stories above a three-car garage. There are 10- and 9-foot ceilings and hardwood oak floors throughout. The place also has three fireplaces, two furnaces, a 100-gallon water heater, a large laundry facility, a kitchen with a sub-zero refrigeration unit, two dishwashers, and a six-burner range with commercial hood and ventilator system.

Gee, I wonder if there will be any overbids. Call Shamrock Realty if you've got the dough.

☎☎☎

THE DOGS WILL BE RABID when they hear this news: Upper Douglass Park got an F on an August report card released by the San Francisco Dog Owners Group (SFDog), headquartered in Noe Valley. The group unleashed a special task force this spring to survey the city's official dog runs, 17 park areas where dogs are allowed to romp free.

Each of the parks was rated according to 10 criteria, such as terrain, park maintenance, safety, litter, garbage cans, signs, and poop bags. In the final tally, only one park got an A — Mountain Lake Park, north of Lake Street at Eighth Avenue. The rest scored C's, D's and F's, including Dolores Park, "which appears to have been converted to a soccer field," and Douglass, whose dog run the task force had a hard time locating. (It's at the top of 27th Street.)

Said task force leader Dr. Tom Mills, "There's nothing at Douglass where the dog area is supposed to be except a 'Dog

Running' sign with an arrow pointing uphill. When you follow the arrow, it leads up to a little strip of trees and thick underbrush, with another sign on the fence that warns 'Hazardous Cliff: Stay Back.' That's it. That's the dog area. So we had to fail that one," he said.

Instead of feeling down in the dumps, though, he and the other members of SF-DOG have vowed to redouble their efforts to fix up and expand the city's various dog patches. They better keep barking at City Hall, too.

☎☎☎

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for Saturday, Oct. 17, at 12:45 p.m., when the ribbon will be cut to celebrate the end of Phase One of the 27th Street Hillside Project, on the hill above Noe Street in the heart of the Duncan-Newburg neighborhood.

Phase One saw the construction of pedestrian stairs at the east end of upper 27th Street down the cliff. The concrete stairs replace a steep, rugged path that people often tried to hike up at great peril in order to go between lower and upper 27th Street.

Present for the ribbon-cutting ceremony will be many neighbors along 27th and Noe streets; Doug Shaw and Gerry Gallagher, who developed a nearby condo complex and offered to fund the landscaping; Supervisor Barbara Kaufman, who got city money behind the project; and representatives from the Duncan Newburg Association (DNA), San Francisco Beautiful, the Transportation Authority, and the San Francisco League of Urban Gardeners (SLUG).

After the party, the group will officially launch Phase Two: landscaping the hillside. DNA director Dennis Downing says this part of the job will be done by neighborhood volunteers with the assistance of the San Francisco Conservation Corps.

So if you plan to use the stairs in the future, you might want to come thank your neighbors and sign up to volunteer for some of the flower planting.

☎☎☎

LEAVING NOE VALLEY for cyberspace is Noe Valley Sports Cards, the popular sports memorabilia shop that's been on the corner of Church and Duncan for almost nine years. (Alley Cat Jewels is also closing up in that storefront.)

Owner Herb Lily says he'll market his trading cards on the Internet, "where I can get potentially 17 million hits a day, whereas here I would get 25 or 50." To reach him, e-mail [noevlyspts@aol.com](mailto:noevlyspts@aol.com).

Herb says he will also work the flea market at the Alemany Farmers Market once a month on the second Sunday. In addition, "I'm looking forward to volun-

Continued on Next Page



Tricia Hollenberg and Terri Harte of Lovejoy's English Tea Room, at 1195 Church at 24th St., think a fine compliment to their high tea is a copy of the latest issue of *The Noe Valley Voice*. Call The Voice at 239-1114 for Display Ad information

Photo by Beverly Tharp

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# RUMORS

Continued from Previous Page

teering a lot of my time at Meals on Wheels," he says.

Oh, by the way, Herb says his hottest baseball card is — you guessed it — the one and only Mark McGwire rookie card (his only issue), going for \$400 to \$800.

Curiously, the hot beanie babies were selling for more than that last month. Well, maybe not anymore.



DOWNTOWN NOE VALLEY was buzzing this summer after the U.S. Postal Service shifted its mail carriers on 24th Street. Many neighbors along Ana Valdares' route got upset and threatened to petition the post office when they learned that their very popular postwoman had been transferred and her route "eliminated."

For the past 12 years, Ana has delivered letters with a smile along parts of 24th and 25th streets, as well as Vicksburg and Sanchez. But the post office suddenly split the route up and added it to those of mail carriers in adjoining blocks. They also transferred Ana to Eureka Valley for a month and a half.

The latest word, however, is that Ana has happily returned to Downtown Noe Valley and is grateful for the outpouring of support from her friends and customers. Her new route is 24th Street from Church to Noe.



SHORT SHRIFTS: The spot recently vacated by A&A Market on Sanchez and 26th streets is currently being repaired. There appears to be a large dry-rot problem. No news on who or what the new tenant might be.

A home furnishings store is going in next to 21st Century Video, the new video store in the large residential/retail complex built by Joe Cassidy next to Bell Market. What will fill the two remaining storefronts is still a mystery.

It looks like five residential units and a commercial space will replace the small Victorian storefront on 24th Street across from Shufat Market, where Suzie's Laundry used to be. The new building is pretty massive.

Star Bakery at Church and 29th streets is still for sale. Check with Zephyr Realty if you're interested: 905-0250.

Skin care specialist Susan O'Connell has left Isa's Salon on 24th Street and opened her own "beauty wellness center" in Glen Park. It's called Bon Dia Spa Boutique, and is located at 74 Wilder St. near Diamond, where the gift store Moptic used to be. Susan says her new salon of-

ZIPPER



"WITHOUT A NET"

BILL GRIFFIN



fers "Rosacea facials and personalized nail treatments, plus skin care, waxing, therapeutic massage, and algae hand and foot treatment."

Meanwhile, Bell Market is getting a facelift. The store says it will lay new linoleum floors and put in a full-service bakery where the liquor department is now. The wine and spirits will move to the back of the store.



TOPOF THE POPS: Streetlight Records on 24th Street reports that several local rock bands are topping its sales charts. A group called P.E.E. has a top-selling album, *Roaring Mechanism*. The band Lower Case has a hit with *Kill the Lights*. And customers are snatching up *In Independence* by the band A-Minor Forest.

Over at Video Wave on Castro Street, owner Alexander Gardener says *The Big Lebowski* is currently running out the door. He recommends *Juliette of the Herbs* as the video to rent instead.

At West Coast Video on Church, the

movie that refuses to sink from the number one spot is *Titanic*...of course.

The top fiction these days at Cover to Cover is the book *The Troublesome Offspring of Cardinal Guzman*, by Louis DeBernieres. In the nonfiction category, it's *Miriam's Kitchen* by Elizabeth Ehrlich.



ELECTION DAY is Nov. 3, not too far off. However, attendance at the Noe Valley Democratic Club's candidates night Sept. 16 was rather slim. Only about 30 people showed up to become enlightened on the people and the propositions.

According to Club President Dave Monks, the hottest debate was over state proposition 5, the measure that would allow gambling casinos on Indian tribal lands.

The club was so conflicted on this one, its members voted to make "no recommendation" on their slate card.

Thanks, guys. Way to take a stand.

Well, that's 30. See you out there on Halloween. □

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# 4087 25th Street

A PERSONAL ESSAY ♦ BY JANE UNDERWOOD

IT'S WINDY TODAY, and shadows of leaves are moving outside my bedroom window. Fall has just arrived, but the air feels more like winter — distinctly colder around the edges. Its sharp-toothed bite makes me want to stay cocooned in the house, where it's easier to monitor the shifting emotions that come over me whenever the weather suggests a time for hibernation. Everything seems poignant.

I'm remembering the period of my life when I decided to have a baby. Most of my friends advised me against this decision, since it meant single motherhood. The books I consulted, written by experts, echoed this advice and then some: If I was choosing to have a baby just because I wanted or needed somebody to love—somebody who would love me back—then I was doing it for the wrong reasons. I was being selfish and irresponsible. The fact that I hadn't yet found, at the age of 30, anyone with whom to share my life or love was sad, but that didn't give me the right to opt for motherhood. Why not run a personals ad instead?

I listened to all the advice, I honestly did. But then I talked things over with my heart instead of my head. This led me straight to the edge of a cliff—me, the woman who had always been deathly afraid of heights—and I

lifted my foot and took one step forward into unfathomable, pregnant sky.

You were born the next October—

I still call you “Pumpkin” sometimes. But if you'd been born in winter, I would have

likened your arrival to that moment when the first twig bursts into flame in the hearth and the air begins to flicker and crackle with the mesmerizing language of fire.

## THE LAST PAGE

WE LIVE IN BERNAL HEIGHTS now. But sometimes when I'm driving through Noe Valley, I pass by our old house at 4087 25th Street. It still gives me a shiver. *Well, there it is*, I say to myself, *the place where—in just one day—my life changed forever*. Then I picture the “back porch”—that small utility room just off the kitchen, typical of many Victorian flats, through which one goes to reach the back yard.

My roommate and I squeezed an old mustard-colored couch into that room, along with a clunky Zenith TV that sat in front of the water heater in the corner. The porch, with its big south-facing window, was the sunniest room in the house. It was also the quietest. We could open the back door and hear birds. The sounds of the city would disappear. And because it was off the kitchen, the room often filled with the aromas of food cooking and



Illustration by Karel Berke

coffee percolating, as well as the heat from the stove.

It was fitting that I gave birth to you in that room—where sun streamed in through sheer lacy curtains bought at my favorite department store—the Salvation Army on Valencia Street—and where I was able to hunker down on that old but comfortable couch, early on the morning of October 25, 1983.

DURING LABOR, I occasionally hoisted myself up, made my way through the kitchen, and lumbered down the hallway to the bathroom. After a few minutes of heaving, I would wend my way back to the couch, lie down, and try to savor the tart apple crispness of autumn in the air.

My abdominal muscles were turning me inside out. With each contraction, I sank down into the mystery of myself as a human animal, aswirl in the panting, sweating, bloody abyss of my bodily self. But between the pains, oh how the leaves fluttered in the light that came streaming through the lace.

When I arrived at the stage of labor known as “transition,” my midwife suggested I stand up and stroll around, in order to speed things along.

“Surely, you jest,” I said.

Then she told me about the Amazon Women of Noe Valley—those stalwart souls who had taken vigorous walks up and down 24th Street during their labors, happy and proud to share their writhing, rolling bellies with friends, neighbors, and merchants. Some, she noted, even sauntered out to the beach, or put on music and jitterbugged with their husbands, right up until the baby popped out and joined in the fun.

“How special,” I said, not budging.

More time passed, during which my fear of movement prevented further dilation. Finally she declared, “You *have* to move, Jane. You *must* change your position. Now *do* it.”

She meant business, so I obeyed.

An hour later I said, “I think something’s happening” (the biggest understatement of my life).

She checked me and her eyebrows shot up. Grabbing her medical bag, she called out for clean towels, and your father (who, as you know, eventually and fortuitously chose to share in your raising) brought them in. Meanwhile, my roommate, who had been invited to stay for the occasion, rushed in with a full-length mirror and placed it at the end of the couch.

I gave another push. (You’ve seen the snapshot of that moment, remember? I’m lying on the couch—face red and bulging—beneath the Modigliani

portrait of a woman whose eyes are closed, her face serene and relaxed... a woman far removed from the numinous mess of birth or death.) Then the top of your head appeared in the mirror, and at 11:19 p.m., life as I had known it ended.

WE LIVED IN NOE VALLEY until you were three. But during the real estate boom of the ’80s, our landlord sold the house to a speculator, who quickly slapped down new linoleum, replaced the kitchen cupboards and bathroom sink, and then just as quickly resold the place to buyers who wanted to move in. We ended up migrating to a house in Glen Park, where we lived until it too was sold. Then we found our cottage in Bernal, which we have gladly called home since you were nine.

However, I still have to run errands in Noe Valley, and sometimes I turn left onto 25th Street without even thinking. When that happens, I slow down to 1 or 2 miles an hour as I pass by 4087. Even that seems too fast for passing by all the memories rooted right there, inside that house, on a funky back porch, on a mustard-colored couch.

I’ve heard women declare that the pain of childbirth split their world wide open. For me it wasn’t the pain, but the moment I saw your face—a face I could never have imagined in a million years. I stared into it for hours on end, mesmerized.

Fifteen years have passed since then. And life has brought many changes. But one thing remains the same. Whenever a winter chill turns my mood to melancholy, all I have to do is look at your face, and what is cold becomes warm, bursts into joyous flame. I’ve never regretted my decision to have you, not for a second. Your face still tells me everything I’ve ever wanted or needed to know about love. ♦

*Jane Underwood is a longtime editor for the Noe Valley Voice. She also teaches classes in creative writing at the Writing Parlor. Her son Will, 15 this month, attends Urban High School and has performed as an acrobat with the Pickle Family Circus.*

## TWO POEMS ♦ BY JENNIFER ARIN

### *Ways We Hold Life*

Let any remaining question  
about circumstance versus character  
end with the story of Arthur  
who shot a man in the face  
and served the requisite time  
behind the local iron curtain.  
I know nothing about him  
then, only that now he cares  
for rare butterflies, part  
of a team of just three  
entrusted to capture but not injure  
the near-extinct creatures  
and carry them to the lab  
where, guided, they reproduce.  
Hands that held a gun  
carefully hold this small life  
delicate as wings, graceful  
as butterflies  
revived flight.

### *Rain*

His loved body  
hosts the virus.  
His hair  
as I stroke  
turns to rain.

*Jennifer Arin is the recipient of a PEN Writers Fund Grant and a Robert Browning Poetry Award. She currently teaches creative writing at City College of San Francisco.*

## WRITERS

The Noe Valley Voice invites you to submit fiction, literary nonfiction, or poetry for possible publication on the Last Page. Please mail your manuscript, which should be typed, double-spaced, and no more than 1,500 words, to the Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Don't forget to send a phone number. We look forward to hearing from you.